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**POLO GROUND  
- IS A SOLUTION  
POSSIBLE?**



Pg 3

**THE NEW GIRL  
ON THE BLOCK**



Pg 8

**POMELO FARMERS  
OF TAMBUN GET  
THEIR LAND - FINALLY**



Pg 9



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## PROSPERITY, ABUNDANCE AND SUPERSTITIONS GALORE

**C**hinese New Year is the most significant of all the traditional Chinese festivals. It is an auspicious start to the year and at this time the Chinese are on their best behaviour. Not to do so may prove catastrophic. There is no room for open hostilities. Every one is gracious and willing to forgive and forget. By embracing a spirit of goodwill and spreading joy and peace they experience moments of blessed calm and sheer bliss. It is a highly commendable way to begin the year.

Chinese New Year, falling between 20th January and 20th February of the Gregorian calendar each year, would be mundane and a nonentity without the accompaniment of traditions and age-old taboos and superstitions. They are still practised although many Chinese with modern ideas regard them with scepticism. Nevertheless, Chinese New Year traditions and customs remain robust because they provide continuity. They bridge the divide between past and present and in this way offer the Chinese a sense of identity.

continued on page 2

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# TRADITION AND TABOO COMBINE TO USHER IN CHINESE NEW YEAR



## Spruce-Up

Chinese New Year brings with it a rich and unique collection of superstitions that is of considerable interest. First, a few weeks prior to Chinese New Year the whole house is spruced up. Tenacious bad luck that lurks in nooks and crannies is meticulously dispatched with broom and mop or the ubiquitous vacuum cleaner. This allows good luck to flow into the house smoothly. If the house is not only spic and span but also shining with warmth and colour, more good luck will be attracted to it. Then the family will have sufficient good fortune to see them comfortably through the year.

## Emblems of Reawakening

Second, abundant live plants and flowers adorn the living room. They represent new life, new growth and healthy mental, emotional, and spiritual development. One cannot help

but notice the stately bamboo plant that commands an enviable position in the house. It signifies steadfastness, compatibility and longevity. Delightful plum blossom which symbolizes reliability and perseverance occupies a place of honour too. Other flowers that are much sought after and loved are pussy willow, peony and narcissus. According to the Chinese, bright flowers and plants are emblems of reawakening. Unsightly presence of plastic and artificial flowers will generate a torrent of disapproval and criticism.

## Auspicious Words and Condiments

Doors too act as vehicles to carry the message of goodwill. Happy wishes such as "May the star of health, happiness, wealth and longevity shine on you" are written on glossy red pieces of paper and pasted prominently on front doors. These heart-warming greetings create a sense of joy and hope. Pleasing words do wonders

to the spirit and people reciprocate warmly. Quaint baskets of oranges and tangerines, which sounds in Cantonese exactly like the word gold and whose colour is similarly bright, are a must-have as they are symbols for abundance, happiness and wealth. Besides, they add a touch of radiance and cheerfulness to the place. Pretty circular trays of candy which sit demurely on coffee-tables are believed to bring people together and are aptly named Trays of Togetherness. They strengthen and sweeten relationships.

## Food Do's and Don'ts

Food is the order of the day. More food is consumed during Chinese New Year than at any other time of the year. At this time they spend lavishly on food and eat day and night to their heart's content. However, food is not chosen in a haphazard fashion. Different kinds of food have different significance and they need to be thought about and prepared carefully. For example, a whole fish and chicken must be cooked intact. They represent completeness and prosper-

ity. To cut them up into pieces spell disaster for the family. Long noodles are cooked uncut and eaten with relish. They symbolise a healthy long life which is the ultimate aim of every one. Dried oysters with black hair fungus which sounds like 'good affairs and prosperity' in Cantonese, is another favourite.

A note of caution: white "Tofu", though nutritious, is taboo. We are told that the twin terrors of Misfortune and Death go hand-in-glove with "Tofu". Some see no possible justification but the verdict is "Tofu" stays out of the menu. Fear of these two dark and destructive forces is real.

## Taboos

Superstitions and taboos are so deep-rooted that

the floor during the first 5 days of Chinese New Year, enjoy talking of death, telling ghost stories, accidentally break crockery, shed tears of sadness or quarrelling or fighting. The sick are not spared either. They have to get dressed and sit in the living room because bad luck will befall them if someone decides to greet them while they are in their bedrooms. Then their condition will deteriorate and the prognosis is poor. (Perhaps psychology plays a part.) And woe betide the one who leaves knives and scissors around the house. Their good fortune will be torn asunder or cut to shreds.

## 15 Days to Celebrate

Chinese New Year is



it is difficult to disregard them. Some superstitions are really quite daunting. It is believed that bad luck clings stubbornly to those who insist on sweeping

celebrated for 15 days. The Chinese take a well-deserved break and return home to their loved ones. On Chinese New Year Eve family members

far and wide converge to have a reunion dinner and join in the festivities. People do not let off fireworks these days as they are banned, favouring instead a video recording of a display of fireworks which is shown over and over.

On the 1st day of Chinese New Year married adults give "Lai See" which is a small red packet with money enclosed, to children and unmarried relatives for good luck. The 5th day is "Open Business Day" and some people are ready to go back to work. A lion dance team is invited to perform a lion dance for reopening business.

The celebration of "Yuan Xiao" festival on the 15th day officially ends Chinese New Year. The Chinese eat glutinous rice balls which symbolise unity. The other days of the 15-day celebration are generally spent on visiting temples to pray to different gods, dropping in on friends and visiting places of interest. On the 16th day of Chinese New Year everyone goes back to work with vigour and vitality. They now look forward to the New Year

YEW SOOK MOY

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## POLO GROUND – IS A SOLUTION POSSIBLE?

The concept of a public park in the eyes and minds of Malaysians seems slightly clouded. There is this mistaken belief that business and healthy pursuits co-existed harmoniously in parks. Nowhere is this notion so evident than at Ipoh's iconic Taman Rekreasi Sultan Abdul Aziz aka Polo Ground. Over here health buffs jostle for space with itinerant hawkers on wheels making it a sight to behold. Perhaps it is a Malaysian way of life where hawking is ingrained in our culture. Or could it be simple economics, as one reader puts it, "where there's demand there's supply."

The problems posed by hawkers, vandals and noise polluters prompted another reader to implore succinctly to return the park to its former grandeur, one which is "free from hawkers, vandals, vermin, noise pollution and traffic".

### Short-Lived Eviction

These are real problems which require solutions not knee-jerk reactions. In 2007, the unsightly vista caught the attention of HRH Sultan Azlan Shah who jogs in the park

regularly. City Council's enforcement division swooped down on the illegal traders and overnight they were all gone. It was a huge relief to the residents living nearby.

The eviction exercise, however, was a mere slap on the wrist, all bark no bite, so more hawkers joined the fray. They returned with bigger vans and larger tables. Since it was taboo to do business in the morning they swarmed the grounds when the sun set. Circumventing the law seemed a better option than confronting city council head-on. It became a cat and mouse game between enforcers and hawkers much to the chagrin of park users and residents alike. This went on for awhile. Today, with little or no enforcement, these "pesky" hawkers flaunt the law with impunity.

### Legislation

Is there a solution to the problem? Three legislations namely, the Local Government Act 1976, the Town and Country Planning Act 1976 and the Street Drainage and Building Act 1974, dictate how a local council should be managed. Malaysia, be-



ing a signatory of the United Nations Rio Declaration on Environment and Development in 1992, has attempted (but failed) to adopt and implement a programme for sustainable development at local council level. This is referred to as Local Agenda 21 (LA 21). The three legislations, LA 21 and MBI-sanctioned by-laws, are sufficient to make amends for the gross injustice that has wrought havoc on visitors and residents living near the Polo Ground.

**Apathy and Tidak-Apa**  
So why is MBI not re-

sponding to demands by Ipohites? Reasons are aplenty. Apathy tops the list. Next is our favourite Malaysian malaise, *tidak-apa* attitude and finally, a feeling of *déjà vu*. Why bother, the problem does not affect me and further more, no one is complaining. And one other excuse so freely expressed, "*depa pun nak cari makan*" (they too want to eat). These are the reasons why we have to put up with a sight which have become commonplace at almost all public parks in the country.

So what options are left for the hard-pressed

and much maligned visitors and residents of Polo Ground? How can they get the authorities to act? And how must they go about getting the authorities to act?

### Options

One possible way is to form an action committee consisting of all residents living near Polo Ground. List all the complaints you have and go on a signature campaign. Even the health buffs can do their part by forming an ad hoc committee. Get Peter Choong, the councillor for Zone 14, to act. Let him do your bidding, for after all that is his responsibility.

Ipoh City Watch (ICW) a non-governmental organisation formed in November 2002 dedicated to improving the quality of life of Ipohites can be of help. Although the NGO does not take issues on an individual basis it can provide the much needed guidance in preparing a case. Lawyer Augustine Anthony is the current president of ICW.

Another possible option, and a practical one too, is to make direct representation to Mayor Dato'

Roshidi Hashim himself or to his boss, State Executive Councillor for Local Governments, Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon. Dato' Mah has been attributed for resolving many outstanding issues concerning citizens' rights and needs. In fact, on reading one reader's complaint about the loud music emanating from the park on weekends, Mah informed Ipoh Echo that the problem would be tackled immediately. The Mayor's *turut padang* programme is his commitment towards making Ipoh a livable city. Roshidi's "turning vision into reality" promise is still fresh in our heads.

### Lasting solution

A lasting solution is not impossible. City Council should take cognisance of Ipohites' growing concern. A public park should operate like park, a quiet place to relax and to exercise. Don't turn this 27-acre green lung into a 'pasar malam' or a site for jambooree-like gatherings. For the record, Polo Ground was gazetted a park in 2005.

We are already into the second decade of the new millennium. Let's move on.

## ADVERTORIAL

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The recent legal battle over the validity of 2 competing Wills of Nina Wang, one of Asia's richest women concluded with a Court ruling in favour of the 2002 Will over the one in 2006. The 2006 Will held by her lover makes him the sole heir of her entire estate estimated to be RM44.8 billion. The 2002 Will left Wang's fortune to a Charitable Foundation which was set up by her and her late husband. The court ruled that the signature of the 2006 Will was highly skilled simulation.

Presuming that one has such wealth, one could take some preventive measures to minimize some of the potential problems. To ensure that the Will is valid, one option is to appoint a minimum of 2 trustworthy individuals to be joint Executors. One can have a maximum of 4 Executors.

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Having chosen your Executor, it is always important to clearly state the distribution of the assets to the beneficiaries in the Will. This enables your executor to carry out your instructions easily without any problems. To prevent doubts arising from a case such as Nina Wang's estate, it is important to engage professionals who are experts in Estate Planning to prepare your Will.

When a Will is completed, the execution involves 3 parties. One is the Testator (the owner of the Will). The other 2 parties are the witnesses who are not beneficiaries or their spouse. The witnesses are to be present when the Testator signs his Will and the Testator must witness the signing of the 2 witnesses. When the Testator signs his Will witnessed by 2 witnesses, the Testator must be of sound mind to know the contents of the Will and distribution, and not under duress so that he is making this Will voluntarily.

When this exercise is completed, it is important to keep your Will with a reputable company providing Will custody services. This will prevent the Will being lost, damaged or tampered with. Taking the above preventive steps will solve problems that occurred in Nina Wang's Will and it will ensure that your instructions are carried out.

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all my readers a very "HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR" and looking forward to "Making Your Wishes Come True".

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



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Mariam Mokhtar

## THINKING ALOUD



# QUEEN BEE SYNDROME LETTING DOWN THE FEMININE SIDE

When one reads publications like Fortune or Time, women shun leadership and power mainly because of motherhood. But in our Exco's case, it is from contact and meetings with Sultans or religious department officials. This is ridiculous. We have achieved much in educating women, equipped them with physical and mental tools and empowered them. Hamidah's proposal stops them dead in their tracks. It's pointless telling them to work hard if they can't qualify for the top prize. Where is the incentive or encouragement?

Perak BN Exco Dato' Hamidah Osman announced recently that a female politician could not become Menteri Besar, in Perak, or any other Malaysian state, because of 'royal protocol and meeting with religious department officials'. Her short-sighted remarks are irresponsible and damaging. She may have considered that with one brush stroke she could extinguish the dreams of many women who aspire to be future Malaysian leaders. She won't succeed though because women are too smart for that. Inadvertently, she exposed herself as someone lacking vision, clarity and ambition and certainly no role model for Malaysian women.

### Law Says Yes

Renowned constitutional law expert Abdul Aziz Bari claimed that women, or even non-Malays and non-Muslims, could legally become MBs. The Sultan, or head of state, could dispense with the prerequisites for the position of MB and invoke a particular constitutional proviso, if it transpires that only unsuitable Malays are available, no Malay-Muslim assembly persons exist or no suitable males are available.

### Educating Women

Malay girls were given access to formal education in 1885. The Chinese had already established community schools from the early 19th century. Indian children in the estates progressed when the 1923 Labour Code compelled employers to build schools. These are important milestones in the history of Malaya (and Malaysia). Education was the catalyst for social and political change.

I need only to talk to my elderly women relatives, who register extreme regret and sadness at being denied the opportunities that we take for granted today, like education and job openings. Most of them went to school up

to 'darjah 5', in a sekolah agama. These women are bright, hard-working and ambitious. They did not lack ability. They lacked opportunities and funding. Otherwise they would have lifted themselves out of depressing poverty. It would have altered the social landscape, for women can and do, make a huge difference.

For generations, women in modern Malaysia struggled to reach the peak of their professions, their paths usually obstructed by prejudice or tradition. Assuredly, they will dominate in the workplace, this decade. They possess several skills and achieve better academic qualifications. They excel at teamwork, leadership skills, communication and emotional intelligence. They also exhibit better resilience and integrity.

### Our Own Worst Enemies?

Inexplicably, the notable rise in the professions fails to explain the dearth of women in top positions in politics, the professional bodies or armed forces. Is it the work-life balance issue? Or is it because, as in Perak, other women become our own worst enemies?

This Exco member has given lame excuses why women are ineligible to become MB. We are not privy to communications



within her political circle. But are we witnessing adept political manoeuvring and sinister manipulations at work? Now that she has worked her way up, is she simply protecting her exalted position? Is she preventing other women from rising up the ranks and in essence, stifle their aspirations? Could she be suffering from the Queen Bee Syndrome in that she refuses to be surrounded by competitors of the same sex?

For ages, women blamed men for hindering their careers, and for the difficulties in achieving

gender equality.

Hamidah's remarks symbolise the waste of a golden opportunity. What happened to motivation, sound judgement and vision? Who can we depend on to provide a good role model? Hers is a spectacular failure of leadership.

*Ipoh Echo provides a forum for views and opinions of the Perak community. Publishing this article does not mean we endorse or share the views of this columnist.*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**World Champion Lion Dance Performance** by the 31-time world champion Kun Seng Keng Lion and Dragon Dance Association from Muar, Johor, at Bandar Baru Sri Klebang's Parklane Residences launching ceremony on Tuesday, 16 February 2010 at 10.00am. In conjunction with the launch, there will also be horse and carriage rides and face painting for children, appearances by the "God of Prosperity", and activities for the whole family. Call **012-5008018** or **019-5133315**.

**Gopeng Museum:** February 15 launches its Corporate Logo at 2pm. Feb 16-28: Antique Clock Exhibition featuring more than 85 antique and table clocks from the early 1900s. The Museum is located at 28 Eu Kong Street, Gopeng. For details call **05-3597828**.

**Feng Shui Outlook** on 2010 Talk by Feng Shui master Professor Thong Ka at Bandar Baru Sri Klebang's Parklane Residences Show Homes on Wednesday 17 February 2010 at 11.00am. Prof. Thong will provide tips and guidance based on a person's zodiac signs for 2010 and will also be giving away limited copies of his book and providing personal Feng Shui consultation. For information, call Jacky at **017-5045689**.

**Perak Lectures "The Conquest of Happiness"** by Mr. Koon Yew Yin on Friday, February 26, Syuen Hotel, Ipoh, commencing at 7.30 pm. For details call: Perak Academy - 05-5478949 or Wai Kheng - **016-5518172**; Fax: **05-5496675** or Email: [contact@perakacademy.com](mailto:contact@perakacademy.com).

**MBI-sponsored Ipoh Aerobathon 2010** will take place at Stadium Indera Mulia, Sunday, February 28, 7.30 am. Attractive cash prizes for 13 winners. Entrance fee RM30 per person. Registration forms available at Jabatan Hal Ehwal Komuniti (Level 7) MBI. Call Pn Jamuna/En Anuar/Pn Elly at **05-2085577/05-2083246**.

**Perak Women for Women Society (PWW) Research/survey** on domestic violence. For more information please contact PWW's office at 52, Jalan Sultan Azlan Shah, or call **05-5469715**.



MUSINGS ON FOOD

by See Foon Chan-Koppen



SEEFOON LANDS SMOOTHLY IN HER FISHING EXPEDITION

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Fish has always been an auspicious symbol for the Chinese, as can be witnessed by the ubiquitous Koi ponds that abound in homes in Ipoh. For those unable to afford fish ponds, there is always that over-copied version of the swimming carp or Koi in all its myriad hues adorning many a wall of offices and homes. The reason for its popularity lies in its symbolic significance because the Chinese word for fish, *yu*, sounds like the word for riches or abundance, and it is believed that eating fish will help your wishes come true in the year to come. And combined with another word *yi*, it signifies smooth passage or riches and abundance will come smoothly. Fish is steamed whole especially during the Chinese New Year period, as cutting up the fish

fairly decent toilet facilities though, located in an outhouse away from the restaurant, complete with sink and running water. Though basic in amenities, the kitchen and the variety of menu items more than make up for its lack of glamour and in Ipoh, as all we Foodies know, it's the food that counts.

Value for money

Back to the fish: I was given a choice of live Haruan (snakehead), wild Tilapia or wild Lampang (I searched for an English name and came up empty) and knowing the first two, I settled for the third, the Lampang. And was I well rewarded. The fish was big enough for our group of seven and the best bonus was the humongous roe that came with the fish. Of course one can never be sure to get a fish with roe but this Lampang, caught in the wild and kept alive in a tank was steamed to perfection, its flesh smooth and succulent, and the roe,

it was wild boar; again at RM15 per portion, great value. But do order in advance as they don't always have stock. We then tucked into k a m -

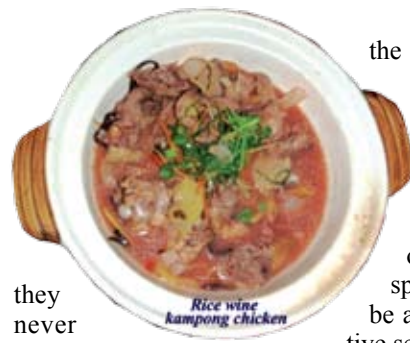


Crab with salted egg yolk

pong chicken cooked in rice wine (the post-partum Chinese staple for ladies) a dish I'm usually not partial to as I have always found the rice wine too sweet for my taste but in this case, the sweetness was just perfect - RM30. The dishes kept coming: steamed homemade fish balls RM9 for 10 pieces; fried Tang Hoon (bean thread noodles) and Beehoon (rice noodles) RM9 each; duck that was steamed, then roasted (tasty but a tad tough) RM48 for a whole duck. Following all this was the *crème de la crème* of the evening: the Crab with Bean-thread Noodles, two very large crabs bubbling in its own juices with the bean noodles soaking it all in - RM53.

We left groaning from the table, promising to return at proprietor's Sunny Chang's pleas. This we did the following week with alacrity and savoured their twice fried Kway Teow (rice noodles) with salted egg yolk RM22 (delectable); their crab fried with salted egg yolk (good but I preferred the clay pot version with bean noodles) RM 42 for three smaller crabs; their mutton curry with its unique Chinese touch that beats most Indian curry houses hands down RM30 and their stewed pork knuckle with mustard greens, only available if ordered in advance; RM42 for the whole knuckle. The

taste of this last dish is similar to the much sought after home concoction, the 'Tsoi Keok' or *chop suey* whose origins came from left over banquet food. This had the right touch of tanginess from the *asam keping* and the chillies added the appropriate degree of piquancy to the dish.



they never close! The good news is that they'll be open throughout

the festive Chinese New Year season especially the first few days when most Chinese restaurants are closed. With the advantage of ample parking space, Sunny's is set to be a hit this coming festive season.

Sunny Seafood Beer Garden  
Zanway Nursery  
Lot 139474, Jalan Raja Musa Mahadi, 31650 Ipoh  
Sunny Chang: 012-558 1313  
To order: Ms Lee 016-557 0608



will mean cutting off abundance. So with the festive season approaching I went fishing.... figuratively that is... with my Foodie friend Ginla Foo, and discovered Sunny's restaurant.

Situated at the entrance to Taman Saikat in Gunong Rapat, Sunny Seafood Beer Garden is essentially a shack with tables and chairs. There are

firm and with not a hint of fishiness or muddiness. At RM45 per kilo, it was great value for money.

Crème de la Crème

Next came what I thought was a soya braised belly pork dish. I was surprised by the springiness of the skin though, as the meat was fully tender and to my surprise discovered that



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18, Jalan Raja Dr. Nazrin Shah, 30250 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan, Malaysia. TT 60151255 5555 IF 60151255 8177 EE resvhi@impiana.com  
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**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.

**STOP THE CRUELTY TO ANIMALS**

A group of big, burly men in red fatigues descended on Teluk Intan yesterday morning (14.1.2010) and went on a rampage against stray dogs and unlicensed dogs. They hunted down the unsuspecting, defenceless preys, using a lasso on a long pole to drag the dogs into a truck, breaking the necks of some in the process.

The screams, terrified shrieks of these creatures pleading for their lives and for some vestige of humanity towards their plight were heart wrenching and disturbing. Traumatized children and adults were seen crying helplessly, as

they watched from coffee shops, grocery shops, clinics, banks, the market, their homes, this violent, almost surreal scene unfold before their very eyes during the busiest time of day in this usually peaceful town. The caught animals were dumped unceremoniously, dead or alive, into a truck and when questioned by a witness in a housing estate, one of the men said they had been mobilized from KL for Zoo Negara.

Apparently, the carcasses are to be fed to the tigers at our National Zoo! We find this a little hard to swallow. If it is true, does that mean these men in red uniforms from KL will carry out stray dog-cleansing in

every town each time the food supply and funds for tigers in Zoo Negara are depleted?

There are many animal loving non-Muslim and Muslims in Teluk Intan and throughout Malaysia who are very disturbed and concerned with this inhuman method of checking the stray population. Also, is it mere coincidence that this should happen just two weeks after new dog licenses were issued by MBTI? We hope the authorities will provide some explanation to the concerned residents of this town.

**Traumatized ISPCA Member**

For more reader's comments on all topics please go to: [www.ipohecho.com.my](http://www.ipohecho.com.my)

**CHINESE NEW YEAR & VALENTINE'S DAY ROUNDUP**

**RESTAURANTS**

**Beacon Point**

41 Lintasan Perajurit 6, Taman Perak, Ipoh. Tel: **05-5469916**  
www.beaconpoint.com.my  
Valentine's Day Dinner on Sunday, 14 Feb.

**Citrus Wine & Dine**

38-46 Lalan Ipoh Perdana, Ipoh. Tel: **05-5451010**  
Chinese New Year a la carte Specials. From 16 Feb.  
Valentine's Day 4-Course Set Dinner. 14 Feb - RM80++ per person. Call for reservations.

**David's Diner**

B-G-1, Greentown Square, Jalan Dato Seri Ahmad Said, Ipoh. Tel: **05-2425733**  
(Reservations: 019-5575733)  
Chinese New Year & Valentine's Dinner Specials. Main Course: Set 1 - Grilled shrimp; Set 2 - Pan-fried Cod fish; Set 3 - BBQ Rib; Set 4 - Rack of Lamb. All sets include: appetizer, soup, sides, drinks & dessert.

**HOTELS**

**HERITAGE**

Jalan Raja DiHilir, Ipoh. Tel: **05-242 8888** ext 2  
www.heritage.com.my  
Chinese New Year Set Menus RM888 nett per table (complimentary 1 30ml bottle Brandy) & RM688 nett per table. CNY Yee Sang Promotion - raw fish/jelly fish/salmon/abalone - RM168 per portion & RM88 1/2 portion.  
Valentine's Day 5-Course Western Set Dinner (Polo Cafe, Level 2). 12-14 Feb, 7-10.30 p.m. - RM138 per couple with complimentary glass of sparkling juice & rose for ladies).

**IMPIANA**

18 Jalan Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, Ipoh. Tel: **05-255 5555** (Reservations: ext 8009)  
www.impiana.com  
"Fatt Choy" Hi-Tea. 13-16 Feb, 12-4.30 p.m. - RM45 nett per person; RM28 nett per child below 12 years. Prosperity Buffet Dinner. 13-16 Feb, 6.30-10.30 p.m. -

**EDUCATION**

**COSMOPPOINT 'COLOUR YOUR LIFE' ART EVENT**

**C**osmopoint International College of Technology (CICT) organised an art event called "COLOUR YOUR LIFE" at their Ipoh Campus recently. The event was officiated by YB Mohamad Zahir b Dato' Abdul Kadir, the Chairman of Education, Higher Education, ICT, Human Resources, Science & Technology.

The purpose of this event is to introduce the basic concept of graphic design and multimedia to the SPM and STPM leavers who are currently waiting for their SPM and STPM results and who haven't decided on which course to pursue for their further education.



The Principal of CICT Ipoh, Pn Nor Adela Dinyati said the event is to encourage interest to graphic design, animation and multimedia amongst the youngsters and to showcase the job opportunities for graduates. Pn Adela also added that the Cosmopoint's multimedia and graphic design graduates are always in demand by the local organisations. Since the event received overwhelming response from the locals, Cosmopoint will organise "Colour Your Life" Tour in other Perak districts such as Sitiawan, Teluk Intan and Taiping soon.

**WHICH IS THE LEGITIMATE PERAK INDIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?**

**T**here are two factions of Perak Indian Chamber of Commerce (PICC), one headed by B.K. Kumar and the other by Sultan Abdul Khader. Press briefings were made recently by both parties.

Kumar said that the judgment on the injunction applied by his faction on the rival faction would be given in March. He sees no justification for Dato' S. Veerasingam, Advisor for Indian Affairs to give a grant of RM200,000 to the other faction for purchase of their own building now, since the case for deciding which is the legitimate faction is coming up for hearing in March. He said that Dato' S. Veerasingam is biased. Kumar informed that PICC has its own building in Lahat Lane for the past

30 years and assessment has not been paid for the past 14 years and the building has not been maintained. Kumar said that he has written to MB Dato' Seri Dr. Zambry Abdul Kadir to revoke the grant and wait till the case is settled. He also plans to write to the Prime Minister to intervene and settle the issue amicably.

Sultan Abdul Khader refuted the allegations made by B. K. Kumar. Sultan agreed that the Chamber has its own building, but it has not been maintained due to financial constraints and action is being taken to sell it. Sultan added that in spite of the pending court case, the injunction against him was lifted on the basis that his faction was recognised by ROS as the rightful Chamber. Following

this, he had written to MBI requesting them to remove the signboard in Kumar's office and it was done. However, during Thaipusam, the signboard was put up again and MBI has been informed of this violation. He accused Kumar of falsely claiming himself as President of a chamber that does not officially exist and issuing press statements which are not true. The grant given by Dato' S. Veerasingam was purely based on the facts provided to him and there is nothing sinister about it. Sultan said the case is coming for hearing in March and if the judgment is against his faction, the committee would resign en bloc.

And so the feuding continues.

**AJ**

RM68 nett per person; RM45 nett per child below 12 years. Family Reunion 8-Course Chinese Set Dinner. 13 Feb, 6.30-10.30 p.m. Imperial Set - RM888 nett per table of 10 persons; Diamond Set - RM688 nett per table of 10 persons. Valentine's Day 5-Course Candlelight Dinner (The Bistro). 14 Feb, 7-10.30 p.m. - RM188 nett per couple consists of: appetizer, soup, granita, main course & dessert and a complimentary glass of wine.

**TOWER REGENCY**

6-8 Jalan Dato' Seri Ahmad Shah, Greentown, Ipoh. Tel: **208 6888** (Reservations: ext 6148)  
Chinese New Year Dinner (Grand Ballroom, Level 1) Set Menus at RM688, RM788 & RM888 nett per table with complimentary 2 bottles house red wine and door gifts. Valentine's Day 5-Course Dinner (Cinnamon Hall, Level 6). 14 Feb. 7-11 p.m. - RM170 nett per couple with complimentary pint of red wine.

**FREEHOLD VIRGIN LAND**

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

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**Project Managing Agent: TAIKO PROPERTIES SDN. BERHAD** (222911-01)  
No.1, Jalan Zarib 8, Zarib Industrial Park, 31500 Ipoh, Perak. Tel: **05-323 6622** (6 lines) Fax: 05-323 6633 Website: [www.bandarseribotani.com](http://www.bandarseribotani.com)

**Developer: PINJI BOTANICS SDN BHD** (192074-A)

Phase 1.7A | Developer's License: 9429-15/06-2012/535 Validity Period: 10.06.2009 - 09.06.2010 Advertising Permit: 9429-15/1803/2010/091 Validity Period: 16.09.2009 - 15.09.2010 MBI Approved Plan No.: 05C1089/42/688/07 Land Tenure: Freehold Land Encumbrance: Nil Expected Completion Date: Dec'11 Units: 138 Selling Price: min RM218,800 max RM395,805 Phase 3.1C | Developer's License: 9424-11/07-2010/938 Validity Period: 25.07.2007-25.07.2010 Advertising Permit: 9429-11/230/2010/075 Validity Period: 02.02.2010 - 25.07.2010 MBI Approved Plan No.: 05C16219/21/474/07 Land Tenure: Freehold Land Encumbrance: Nil Expected Completion Date: June'12 Units: 121 Selling Price: min RM245,000 max RM410,156



## RACING CIRCLE BALINESE VILLAS

The Racing Circle, developed by Lagun Bali Sdn Bhd, is touted to be the city's most exclusive and enviable address. Its unique Balinese Villas accessible via a tree-lined natural canopy boulevard, is among the state's first 24/7 gated and guarded residences. It was an ambitious task to create an eco-friendly community with environmental conservation in mind. The Villas are prestigious homes that come with added extras. They have a practical and comfortable design in harmony with and surrounded by exotic flora and fauna and enhanced by serene water formation.

### Unique and Functional Design

The Balinese Villas are spacious and innovative enabling entry into the communal landscape from both the living and dining rooms. For those who appreciate quality, luxurious living, the design gives allowance for modification according to individual tastes.

Features, Facilities and Amenities include: freehold individual titles, 24/7 gated and guarded community for maximum security and safety, single point entry and exit, low density - only

ten exclusive and uniquely designed bungalows in a private enclosure surrounded by environmentally friendly landscaping and the choice of 3 types with 10 designs.

### TAMAN BERCHAM IDAMAN

Taman Bercham Idaman is the latest well-planned mixed development project for a better living environment undertaken by Irama Properties Sdn Bhd. It is strategically located along Jalan Bercham to Tanjung Rambutan and Sunway, and just 1 km from the new Bercham wet market. Other amenities like schools, banks and petrol stations are easily accessible and are near Giant Hypermarket, Jaya Jusco, Tesco and the intersection of the North-South Highway.

Spanning an area of 25,428 sq metres, it consists of single- and double-storey terrace houses as well as double-storey shop offices that offer great in-

vestment opportunities. Phase 1 is sold out and Phase 2 is nearing completion with limited units available.

Irama Properties help to fulfil dreams by building spacious terrace houses with affordable prices for those wishing to own their first home or upgrade to a better one. Two different designs of double-storey terrace houses consisting of: 72 units of Type A1, measuring 22 x 75, with 4 bedrooms and 3 bathrooms, wet and dry kitchen and 2 family halls; and 18 units of Type A2/A3 only available with more spacious land size of 24 x 80. Show houses are open for viewing from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Mon-Fri) and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. (Sat/Sun/public holidays).

Both projects are managed by  
**Kinta Real Estate Sdn Bhd**  
 70 Jalan Raja Ekram (Cowan Street),  
 30450 Ipoh.  
 05-242 1881/016 - 520 1881





**Type A1**  
**Double Storey Terrace House**  
 Land Size  
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 5% Discount for Bumiputra



**TAMAN BERCHAM IDAMAN**



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**24' x 80'**  
 From **RM228,800**  
 5% Discount for Bumiputra



**Type B**  
**Single Storey Terrace House**  
 Land Size  
**22' x 75'**  
 From **RM128,800**  
 5% Discount for Bumiputra



**Phase 1 ALL SOLD**  
**Phase 2 OPEN FOR SALE 19 units only**

**Double Storey Shop Office**  
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Developer: **IRAMA PROPERTIES SDN. BHD.** (708184-K)  
 (Formerly known as IRAMA ASYIK SDN. BHD.)

Land Owner: **AGRO HEIGHTS SDN. BHD.** (01684-K)

Project Manager: **KINTA REAL ESTATE SDN. BHD.** (45889-K)  
 No. 70, Jalan Raja Ekram (Cowan Street), 30450 Ipoh, Perak Darul Ridzuan.  
 Fax: 05-254-7557 E-mail: kinta.re@gmail.com

**05-242 1881 / 016-520 1881**

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# Racing Circle

Balinese Villas



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 Tel: 05-242 1881 Fax: 05-254 7557

Project Managed by :  
**KINTA REAL ESTATE SDN. BHD.** (45889-K)  
 Email: kinta.re@gmail.com



**05-2421881 / 016 5201881**

Developer License: 10723-1/09-2011/528 Validity Date: 08-09-2008 - 07-09-2011 Advertising Permit: 10723-1/1983/2009/010 Validity Date: 07-10-2008 - 06-10-2009 MBI Approval: B1 (13) dlm MBI L/05/337/905/07 MBI L/05/402/1090/07 MBI L/05/424/1164/07 Land Encumbrances: Charged to United Overseas Bank (M) Berhad No of Units: 10 units  
 Completion Date: July 2010 Selling Price: RM 1,892,850 (min) to RM 1,976,040 (max)  
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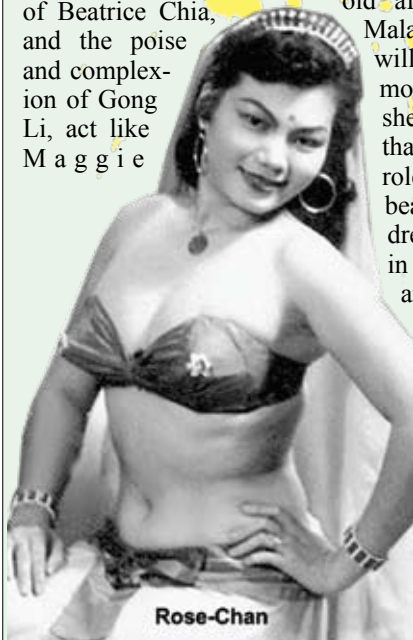
LETTER FROM ULU KINTA

# THE NEW GIRL ON THE BLOCK

Stand aside Michelle Yeoh, a new star is coming to town!

Pulses are set to race when Singapore director Eric Khoo films the long awaited movie *Mei Gui Xiang* (The Charming Rose), about Malaysia's Striptease Queen, Rose Chan.

Having had a difficult time finding the right actress to play the role where stiff criteria like "the sultry lips of Shu Qi, the voluptuous figure of Fiona Xie, the height of Beatrice Chia, and the poise and complexion of Gong Li, act like M a g i e



Rose-Chan

Cheung and can tell jokes like Irene Ang". And further complicated by the requirement to speak both Mandarin and Cantonese and be comfortable with nudity and snake handling, it is with a sense of Perakian pride that we applaud Ipohite Christy Yow Wei Min having been cast as the leading lady.

**Well Endowed**

The well endowed 23-year-old affectionately called Malaysia Giant Breasts, will cut her teeth in the movie. In interviews, she was quick to stress that she secured the role after successfully beating several hundred other candidates in year-long auditions and that it wasn't just her physical attributes, a generous 36C, that qualified her. Filming is expected to commence later this year in Shanghai. Furthermore, Singaporean actress Irene Ang, of Phua Chu Kang

fame, will be playing the older Chan in this French production.

**Non-pornographic**

Anyone imagining this to be a pornographic movie will be disappointed, though rewarded by the occasional nude scenes. This movie, depicting the life and work of Rose Chan, also known as 'The Flower of Malaya', is a tribute to a grand lady who entertained, enthralled and endeared herself to many in 1950s Malaya. It is also a story of triumph and preservation. Rose's life was tinged with sadness and the film hopes to capture her courageous and charitable spirit as well as display her ingenuity and generosity.

**Traumatic History**

She arrived with her adoptive mother from Shanghai at 6, was sold for RM3,000 at 16, was two-timed by her sister and fiancé at 18, and in a desperate search for love and happiness, married five times before being diagnosed with breast cancer at 61. Sadly,

she died the following year before an American publisher could write her life-story and make a film. Significantly, Ipoh was Rose's transition point. The young Wai Cheng adopted the stage name Rose Chan following a furious argument with her sister. Right until 27, she toured Malaya as a cabaret girl, until an accident at the Majestic Theatre in Ipoh, launched her career as a striptease artiste. It was whilst performing that her bra-strap snapped. The crowds went ballistic and roared their approval. She was nonplussed, "I dance all night, I sweat so much, nobody claps. My bra breaks, they clap". The rest as they say is history. Rose Chan, the Striptease Queen, was born.

**Charity Queen**

Throughout her life, she gave generously to charity, for children and old folks' homes. She also danced in aid of worthy projects. Her altruism earned her the title, Charity Queen. She even performed in Europe, Australia and Indonesia.

**Christy's Tough Assignment**

When Christy Yow first left Ipoh, she aimed to become a stewardess with Singapore Airlines but failed to proceed beyond the first round of interviews. Undaunted, she became the brand ambassador for Crocodile with photo-shoots in London and Vietnam. Having featured on Harper's Bazaar and Vogue, she then tried singing, and appeared in celebrity game-shows. Although her acting and physical attributes are obvious assets, one wonders how she will cope with the daring performances like Rose Chan's python-wrestling act, or her unusual stunts of motorcycles riding over her body. Christy has already admitted a phobia of snakes.

Rose Chan's bitter rival was Ipoh born Rose Marly, who was rumoured



Christy Yow

to be more beautiful and taller, but who had a shorter stage life. Are the producers searching for someone to play Rose Marly?

Rose's fans are either dead or in their sixties or seventies now. Will they recall her raunchy acts? Will they be captivated with Christy's portrayal of Rose?

I am told that my uncle received the 'hand-bag treatment' from his then girlfriend for having many boys' nights out, to see Rose Chan at the Jubilee Park. Dare I ask him if he'll be given permission to watch the movie when it is out?

YMM

IPOH IN BRIEF

MY CONSTITUTION CAMPAIGN



Realising the need to educate the rakyat on the significance of the Malaysian Constitution, the Malaysian Bar Council, launched the My

Constitution Campaign on November 13, 2009, at the council premises in Kuala Lumpur. This came in the wake of several controversial issues involving the

Judiciary, the Legislative and the Executive. Issues such as Islamic versus Secular states, Article 153, Rights of Citizenship and the Perak Constitutional crisis of February 2009, had necessitated the Council to go back to basics - understanding the Constitution.

The Chairman of the Constitutional Law Committee of the Bar Council, Edmund Bon, will visit every state in the country, including Sabah and Sarawak, to keep the momentum going. The campaign will continue till September 2011. "We'll conduct workshops and seminars in universities and colleges with the assistance of the state bar committees", said Edmund

to the media. Booklets on the Malaysian Constitution have been printed. Some 100,000 copies are available for distribution. They are in Bahasa Malaysia and English. The booklets are small and can easily fit into shirt pockets. "Funding is our major problem. But we'll find ways to overcome it."

Perak is the first stop for Edmund and his team. The state-level campaign was held at the Royal Ipoh Club on Friday, February 5, 2010. Over a hundred participants attended the campaign cum forum. Former appeal court judge, Dato' N.H. Chan, delivered the keynote address. Chan dwelt on the subject of the Independence of Judges. "Bad judges," said Chan,

"think that independence means that they can do whatever they please so long as they side with the government in power." He ended his speech with this ominous message - a likely prophecy to the many wrongs committed by bad judges. "I shall write their obituary when they die, just as I wrote the obituary of the late Augustine Paul. And if they outlive

me I am sure there will be others who will take my place."

A lively discussion ensued with the panel fielding questions from the floor. The subject "Separation of Powers: A Constitutional Reality or a Political Myth" was most appropriate in the light of events that had befallen Perak in recent times.

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Phase 5(2) : Developer's Licence : 3995-5/01-2012/1326 (11/110-10/112) Advertisement & Sale Permit : 3998-51/2598/2012 (12) (29/12/09-28/12/10) Approved Building Plan : MBI-F2/276/856/05 Expected Date Of Completion : Dec 2011 Land Tenure : 99 years (expiring on 8/7/2095) Land Encumbrance Nil



IPOH IN BRIEF

More pics at ipohecho.com.my



POMELO FARMERS OF TAMBUN GET THEIR LAND – FINALLY

Dato' Seri Zambry Abdul Kadir today gave the Pomelo Farmers of Tambun an 'ang pow' they will treasure for generations to come.

On January 30 2009 Zambry announced that the state government would be granting the farmers 99-year leases to their land. His announcement was greeted with cheers by the farmers present. As an added sweetener Zambry announced that the farmers would be exempted from back payment of land premiums.

This exemption was granted at the request by

both Dato' Seri Ahmad Husni Hanadziah, Member of Parliament for Tambun and YB Dato' Rusnah Kassim, State Assemblywoman for Ulu Kinta. Both Husny and Rusnah had vouched that the farmers had responsibly toiled the land and had contributed to making the pomelo synonymous with the state of Perak.

Pomelo's or known commonly as 'Limau Bali' has been grown around Tambun town for over 2 generations. Due to the quality of the fruit it has become a tourist attraction and busloads of tourists stop over at Tambun each week to savour the fruit. However the land where the fruit is grown had always been classified as 'Temporary Occupation Licence' which was a concern by the orchard owners who began lobbying for a permanent title over 20 years ago.

An initial total of 62 farmers covering 115 acres will benefit from this gesture by the state government. According to Zambry there are additional orchards which

are eligible but their details have not yet been finalised. Dato' Seri Husni Hanadziah, who is also the Finance Minister 2, confirmed that the farmers would be able to receive their titles within 3 months after submitting their application.

Long time farmer Mr Chow Sun, 74, who is also the Chairman of the Tambun Pomelo Farmers Association, was very happy with the announcement. "I have been growing pomeloes since my father's time which is over 80 years ago. For close to 30 years we have been asking for the land and today we have finally been granted our request".

When all the euphoria of the morning had quietened down one could hear sighs of 'at last' and 'finally' being mentioned signalling an end to a drawn-out battle between the growers and the authorities. An end that brings joy to both parties, especially the growers.

JAG

IPOH'S 'NEW' CITY COUNCILLORS

January 29, 2009

Twenty-two Ipoh City Councillors took their oath of office in the presence of Senior Executive Councillor for Local Government Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon and Ipoh Mayor Dato' Haji Roshidi bin Haji Hashim.

In his speech to the Councillors, Dr Mah advised them to "go to the ground and work with the people, NGOs and the council to resolve the problems in the community".

There are three new faces. They are Mr. Wong Kooi Fong (NGO), 52, appointed the Councillor for Zone 17: Menglembu/Falim while another Mr. Liew See Fan (NGO), 40, Councillor for Zone 6: Jelapang/Taman

Pertama/Taman Rishah.

The third is 38 year-old Ms Ceylyn Tay Wei Lung (Gerakan), Councillor for Zone 10: Simee/Ipoh Garden/Canning Garden.

Councillor Ceylyn is currently the Gerakan Wanita's Head for Ipoh East as well as Public Services Bureau Deputy Chief. When asked about her plans for her zone Ceylyn responded that she is planning to "have a dialogue with the Police regarding crime in her zone. The dialogue should happen before Chinese New Year".

The duration for the term of office for the Councillors is 6 months, till June 2010.

JAG



DiGi LAUNCHES TURBO 3G NETWORK

98% network accessibility in Ipoh by March 2010

DiGi Telecommunications Sdn Bhd launched their newest Turbo 3G Network in Ipoh on 5th February. The launch will make available better quality mobile services at affordable prices to more Malaysians. The new service which was launched by Senior State Executive Councillor for Local Government, Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon was held at Indulgence Restaurant. Representing DiGi was Albern Murthy, Head of Products and Segment Marketing and its Head of Northern Region Siew Chee Kong.

Murthy stated that the current coverage for Ipoh

currently was 68% which will be escalated to 98% throughout Ipoh by March 2010.

The service is scheduled to expand to Taiping, Kamunting and Kampar in the second half of this year. DiGi has committed RM50 million to the state over the next 3 years as part of its rapid expansion programme..

Dato' Dr Mah, in his address stated that the State Government was focused on the development of ICT in the state and had targeted to elevate the internet penetration in Perak to 63% by the end of the year.

JAG

Advertisement for Meru Valley Hill Top featuring a golf course landscape and award logos. Text: MODERN RESORT HOMES in Asia Pacific's Best Golf Development

Three images showing different house models: Ashford (2 storey detached home), Berkley (1 1/2 storey detached home), and Carisbrooke (1 storey bungalow).

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A-G-1, No. 1, Palm, Greentown 2, Greentown Business Centre 30450 Ipoh, Perak. Developer's License No.: 001-02-2010-024 & Licensing Permit No.: 001-02-2010-024. Approved Plan No.: 001-02-2010-024. Local Council: 19 years. Registered Date of Completion: Dec 2011. Land Encumbrance: 1999. Road Budget: 1000000.00. Max. Plot 1307268.



**EARLY CHINESE NEW YEAR FOR THE NEEDY**



Forty-five charitable organisations in Perak received a total of RM188,000 to help improve the quality of life of 4,700 needy individuals in the state under their care during a Chinese New Year function jointly organised by Da Ma Cai and Perak

Turf Club held in the Turf Club recently. Recipients included Rumah Orang Tua Kg. Simee, Salvation Army Children's Home and Bethany Home & School for Epileptic Children.

The function was officiated by the Perak Turf Club's chairman Tan Sri

Dato' Seri V. Jeyaratnam and the guest-of-honour was Dato' Dr. Mah Hang Soon, Perak State Executive Councillor. A mock cheque for RM188,000 was presented and cheques were also given to the representatives of the charitable organisations. Ang pows were given to all the guests.

During the colourful ceremony more than two hundred guests were treated to a lion dance performance and entertained by fun games and clowns. The function ended with distribution of meal packs to the guests.

**AJ**

**BUSINESS**

**'AMBASSADOR' FOR TAIPING AND PERAK**



A recent invitation to a piano concert exclusively for Ambassadors, high-ranking Malaysian diplomatic staff and selected Malaysian business communities, provided an excellent opportunity for Yee Siu Kai, the state assemblyman for Pokok

Asam, Taiping to promote Perak to members of the European Union. Armed with the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry's (PCCCI) latest promotional DVD re business opportunities in Perak, entitled "Silver State Opportunities" and

the Ipoh Echo Newspaper, Yee and Beh Yang Toh of the Taiping Tourist Association, presented the materials to the European Union Head of Embassy as well as the French Ambassador and other countries' representatives.

Yee, who has taken on the role as self-appointed 'ambassador', hopes to promote Perak, especially Taiping as a Town of Culture & Art, Peace, Fine Weather, Economy and Commerce, as well as Information Technology, through diplomatic channels, to the international communities.

**MCA FETES THE MEDIA**

Datuk Kong announces 24 CCTVs allocated for Ipoh.



The Malaysian Chinese Association hosted a party for the local Media on 3rd February at the Tower Regency Hotel.

The guests of honour for the night were the Minister for Local Housing and Government Datuk Seri Kong Cho Har and Senior State Executive Councillor for Local

Government Dato' Dr Mah Hang Soon. The dinner was well attended by the Bureau Chiefs and their teams of the main stream media.

Datuk Kong in his speech announced that a total of 24 CCTV cameras had been allocated for Ipoh City and would be placed at strategic locations as

proposed by the police and would be installed by the middle of this year. The 24 CCTV cameras are part of the 496 total allocated for the whole country by his ministry.

Dato' Dr Mah had, in his address before Kong, mentioned that crime in Ipoh was a concern, mentioning Old Town and Bercham as areas of particular focus.

Other than the speeches the night was a relaxing and fun evening with a karaoke singing competition, men's and women's best dressed competition and groups taking photos by the table.

**JAG**

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**Lunar NEW YEAR 2010 Celebration**

Date: 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
Time: 10am-4pm  
Venue: Bandar Baru Sri Klebang

**16<sup>th</sup> February, Tuesday (11am)**  
Lion Dance Performane  
by World Champion Kun Seng Keng Assoc. Johor &  
Horse & Carriage Rides

**17<sup>th</sup> February, Wednesday (11am)**  
Feng Shui 2010 Talk & Consultation  
by Prof. Thong Ka Pau

**\*Other Programmes:**  
God of Prosperity appearance,  
Walkabout Clown, Face Painting,  
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\*Available on 16th & 17th February 2010



## SAYA ANAK BANGSA MALAYSIA

Imagine a Malaysia where one is not identified by his race, the religion he professes, the language he speaks and the political party he is affiliated to. And where privileges normally accorded to the rich, the influential and to those who walk the corridors of power, are totally absent! At the rate things are going now such Utopian ideals will never come our way. After over 50 years of Independence we are nowhere near the goals set by the nation's founding fathers.

Racial polarisation has changed the way we treat one another. The public sector is being dominated by one race while the private sector by another. Minorities are being relegated to being second-class citizens having to survive on crumbs and handouts. Ketuanan Melayu (Malay Supremacy) is a favourite buzzword of the Malay nationalists. They have unilaterally declared that "the Malays must have political power to dominate the economically powerful Chinese in order to keep the Indians where they are".

Islamisation is slowly making its way into our living rooms and is impacting the way we think and act. Malays being Muslims cannot practise any religion other than Islam while their non-Malay

counterparts are not bound by such law. They can be tried under both civil and shariah laws. The spirit of the Constitution has been hijacked by the nationalists who claimed that Article 153 (pertaining to Malay and native rights) is all binding and is irrevocable. They have, however, overlooked Article 136 which supersedes the requirements in Article 153. These uncertainties will only make Malaysians more confused and coupled with the impasse over the use of the word "Allah", the future looks bleak for the rakyat.

Saya Anak Bangsa Malaysia (SABM) was formed to address these uncertainties in a civilised way. The movement consists of like-minded Malaysians who share common goals and aspirations. They envisage a Malaysia devoid of festering problems relating to race, religion and politics. They subscribe to the principles of liberty, equality, democracy and diversity. Lawyer blogger Haris Ibrahim (People's Parliament), the founder and leader of this movement will, in the months ahead, go around the country to spread the gospel. The movement's first stop was Penang fol-



Haris Ibrahim

lowed by Kuala Lumpur. Ipoh was its third.

The SABM forum was held at Excelsior Hotel, Ipoh, on Saturday, February 6, 2010. Over a hundred participants took part. It was an eye-opener, especially to the youngsters who were given the true version of the nation's history. Haris is passionate about making Malaysia a safe haven for everyone. When asked what motivated him to start the movement, he replied, "It began after the candlelight vigil in PJ. We were hounded by the Police." He felt that the energy of all peace-loving Malaysians should be galvanised. With number comes strength, he reasoned. "We're all volunteers. Race, religion, colour and sex do not matter." With such a spirited man at the helm, SABM is set to make waves.

FZB

## DIRT VIGILANTES

### AN ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM CITY COUNCIL



THUMBS UP

Ipoh City Council is showing some determination to keep the city clean, but the residents appear to be unenthusiastic about it.

In response to Ipoh Echo's call (IE87 issue) on the people to co-operate in keeping the city clean, the residents' group of Taman Tinggi near Silibin planned a gotong-royong to clean up their housing estate.

The City Council enthusiastically sent about 30 of its employees and two Lorries to participate in the clean-up on January 23. But, disappointingly only a handful of the residents turned out.

Nevertheless, the undeterred City Council employees, who were armed with brooms, spades, cangkul (hoes) and wheelbarrows, went ahead with their task. They left after ensuring that Taman Tinggi had been cleaned

of rubbish and clogged drains. Lorry-loads of rubbish and unwanted items were carted away.

"The City Council is also responding to requests from various areas around the city", said an official. "We are having busy weekends now."

He added residents need to be civic consciousness and restrain from throwing rubbish indiscriminately so that the estimated 20,000 illegal rubbish dumps throughout the city could be cleared eventually.

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## A NEW HEART FOR THE NEW YEAR

Mr. Then Tad Choy suffers from a heart condition and wanted to lead a healthy life. The 56-year-old, a poor unlicensed hawker from Simpang Pulai, Kampung Kepayang, is also diagnosed with having diabetes and hypertension. Mr. Then could not afford to pay for cost of the heart surgery. With very little income the whole family lives at Mr. Then's father's dilapidated house.

Their combined income is less than RM2,000. His wife Madam Kang Chew Ching, 49, is a housewife and their children Then Chin Yin, 23, and Then Chin Yew, 20, can only afford to contribute RM200 a month. The eldest son works as a construction worker and the other works in an amusement centre. Mr. Then has an 18-year-old daughter, Then Qu Yan who has just completed her Form 5 studies at SMJK Perak Girl's School. She is currently jobless and wishes to pursue her studies in Law or Medicine. Due



Left to right - Dr. Philip Ho, Cardiologist, Mr. Then Tad Choy & wife & Dr. Ulf Farid

to his dire need of medical attention his wife, Madam Kang Chew Ching had to borrow from their relatives to support his medical expenses.

Mr. Then's plight for heart surgery was brought to the attention of Pantai Hospital Ipoh (PHI). On 26th January 2010, Mr. Then underwent a successful Coronary Artery Bypass Graft operation performed by Dr. Ulf Farid Myrhe, Pantai Hospital Ipoh's Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon. Mr. Then was chosen due to the urgency of his condition and family situation. The surgery lasted for about 4 hours and has since given a new

lease of life to Mr. Then. His condition is now very stable and he feels much better than before the operation. Mr. Then was most grateful to Pantai Hospital Ipoh whose intervention had brought him back from the brink of imminent death.

The Coronary Artery Bypass operation performed by Dr. Farid is one that is routinely done in the hospital. Using a heart lung machine to assist, arteries were used instead of veins for better long term function, the harvesting of which was done endoscopically (using video camera and a scope) using a small incision 3-5 cm to get the

vessel to be used for bypass. An intra aortic balloon pump was used in this case to support the heart in Mr. Then who was a high risk patient.

Other procedures routinely carried out by Dr. Farid on other patients include repair of leaky or narrowed mitral and tricuspid heart valve, surgery to cure atrial fibrillation, (most common cause of stroke in society), using radiofrequency generator to align the correct electrical pathway through the heart, left Ventricular Remodelling surgery for heart failure after previous big heart attacks, surgery for dilating major blood vessels and video-assisted

surgery for lung disease, making only small keyholes in the chest.

Non-invasive cardiac procedures available at Pantai Hospital Ipoh include echocardiogram, Stress Echo, Dobutamine Stress Echo, 24-hour holter monitoring, treadmill stress test and 24-hours ambulatory blood pressure monitoring.

Dr. Dilshaad Ali, CEO of Pantai Hospital Ipoh said, "It is our hope that we help Mr. Then improve his life and also

assist him in his future by helping him obtain a hawker's licence from the relevant authorities. This will hopefully help Mr. Then get back on his feet and continue to lead a better life". He continued, "It has always been PHI's commitment to give back and reach out to the community as part of our Corporate Social Responsibility efforts. Being a socially responsible healthcare provider is one of the main objectives of PHI and the Pantai Group".

Echocardiogram





COMMUNITY NEWS

**TOURIST CENTRE SIGNBOARD  
BLOCKED BY TREE**



**THUMBS  
DOWN**

rection to the centre is located at the junction of Jalan Maharajalela and Jalan Bandar. It is good to plant trees in the city centre which adds beauty to the surrounding, but trees should not block signboards. The Landscaping Department of Ipoh City Council must trim the trees regularly. There are many other similar examples in the city.

A tourist maybe at the junction eagerly seeking the direction to the centre and yet not realising that it is just about 50 metres away.

A. JEYARAJ

The signboard blocked by a tree reads Pusat Penerangan Pelancongan

Perak (Perak Tourist Information Centre) with an arrow showing the di-

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**ONE GOOD TURN**

A young boy, barely into his teens, can now look forward to a meaningful future after his plight received the kind of attention his parents have never expected. Eleven year-old Mohd Ihsan Mohd Tahir from Kampong Tengah, Trong suffers from epidermolysis bullosa, a chronic skin condition characterised by peeling skin and open sores. He was born with the ailment and is skinless from the knees below. As a baby he was placed in an incubator and had to endure great pain.

Pantai Hospital Ipoh, in exercising its corporate social responsibility, took Mohd Ihsan under its wing and warded him for observation and treatment. "He's in the intensive care unit, since Monday, January 25", said Dr Dilshaad Ali, CEO Pantai Hospital during a press conference at the hospital's boardroom on Thursday, January

28. "We'll follow up with treatment at his house upon discharge. Hopefully, NGOs and individuals will come forward to provide the assistance needed", he explored.

According to the hospital's consultant dermatologist, Dato' Dr Ratti, the skin ailment is congenital and is not something rare. "It's hereditary and may have been passed on by the parents. Both are first cousins", he revealed.

Kelab Bakti Gunung Keledang had promised a motorised wheelchair for Mohd Ihsan. "We're focusing on ways to lessen the boy's misery as a cure is not a possibility", said Dr Dilshaad.



Those wishing to extend a helping hand please contact Ipoh Echo, 605-2495936 or email: ipohecho@ipohecho.com.my, for details.

FZB

**A FITTING FINALE**

The year-long Anderson School centennial celebration came to a close on Sunday, February 8, 2010, with a most fitting finale. A firework display on the school field marked the end of the grandest celebration ever organised by the school. Present to do the honour was DYAM Raja DiHilir Perak Raja Jaafar bin Raja Muda Musa, a former student. At lunchtime earlier in the day, the Raja DiHilir Perak presented awards to seven "Andersonians of the Century" for their lifetime contributions to society. Among them was world-



renowned cartoonist, Dato' Mohammad Nor Khalid, popularly known as Lat. The much touted time capsule containing materials pertaining to the centennial celebration was placed at a spot in the school foyer witnessed by guests, staff, students

and the media. Kudos to the organising committee helmed by Dato' Seri Dr Mohd Helmi Ismail and ably assisted by Dato' Dr Anwar Hassan, President of the Old Boys' Association.

FZB

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