



CONSTITUENCY NEWSLETTER

WONG CHEN

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR SUBANG

ISSUE 15 • JULY 2020



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FOREWORD FROM WONG CHEN



My Dear Subangites,

Q1 and Q2 2020 Overview (January to June 2020):

This is my fifth newsletter to you as your Member of Parliament for Subang.

It has been a very disappointing, difficult and challenging first half of 2020. Our nation has had to restrict movements to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic; lives have been lost and severely disrupted. The economy is in recession, incidence of poverty increasing, unemployment numbers are up and to top it all, we continue to face political instability.

The Pakatan Harapan government collapsed in late February in a treacherous and bewildering week of political manoeuvrings. I am sorry that the people has had to go through the political turmoil on the heels of the Covid-19 crisis. While it appears that we have currently contained this Covid-19 wave, we have to remain vigilant for at least 24 months until a vaccine is found and deployed worldwide. As such we have to adjust and prepare for the “new normal” at the personal, community and economic level.

What I personally find to be most distressing is the fact that the current government has also disrupted and delayed normal Parliament business. This essentially means that the current government has yet to be accountable and transparent in the management of the nation and the economy. It is also an unstable government, with a presumably small (but untested) majority. It also doesn't help that the numbers keep changing, as legislators continue to hop from party to party to better themselves, often betraying the constituents who voted them in.

There has also been a spate of high profile corruption cases that were inexplicably dropped and an increase of investigations against Opposition legislators. I am of the view that every suspected corrupt politician should be investigated, but such investigations should apply to all and be done without political interference. I fear that the current trend of selective persecution is recurring, signalling a dangerous return to the dark old days of Malaysia's authoritarian and political patronage politics. All these recent political moves are extremely bad practices and contrary to universal principles of parliamentary democracy.

Parliamentary Updates:

I was appointed as Chairman of the Select Committee on International Relations and Trade in December 2019. My tenure is short-lived and is expected to end in the coming months. After the Christmas holidays, in January and February 2020 my office set upon a series of meetings with several ambassadors to listen and discuss how to improve bilateral ties. We also paid courtesy calls to the then Minister of International Trade and Industry, and Minister of Foreign Affairs. We also managed to conduct a formal hearing on Malaysia-Palestine bilateral ties. You can read about these committee works in greater detail, in the following pages in this newsletter. Please note that since April 2020, all select committee works have been suspended.

The one-day Parliamentary session on May 18th was also an unprecedented event. The government's main intention of the one-day event was to re-set the clock, so that Parliament is not in recess for longer than six (6) months and thus circumventing the Federal Constitution requirement.

Diplomacy Updates:

On the diplomatic front, I had five (5) dinner/lunch events with ambassadors and foreign dignitaries in the month of January and February. I met up with the Tanzanian Ambassador, the First Secretary of the Singapore High Commission, the Cuban Ambassador, the Norwegian Ambassador and the Danish Ambassador. I also separately received the Venezuelan and Libyan visiting dignitaries in closed-door meetings. My dear friend Mu Sochua, MP in exile of Cambodia also made a short visit to Kuala Lumpur. During the Movement Control Order (MCO) period, I did 11 zoom meetings with several organizations including ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, IDEAS, bankers and a special briefing with all European Union (EU) ambassadors.

Community Projects and Welfare Assistance Updates:

Until Pakatan Harapan lost power in the last week of February, we were on track to carry out 113 community projects. Since the change of government, as of 1st March 2020, our community budget was slashed from RM3.5 million to a mere RM100,000, a whopping 97% reduction. That being the case, we had to stop and put on indefinite hold to all our community projects.

For Covid-19 welfare aid, we had utilised the bulk of our remaining RM100,000 but we were also very lucky to get financial support from a Buddhist group, individuals and the Mum4Mums campaign by Makchic. Do read about the social distancing welfare aid that we designed and implemented for the poor, by way of sending cash vouchers via Pos Laju.

Thank You:

I want to thank YB Ng Sze Han, YB Michelle Ng, all the councillors, MPSJ officers and community leaders, and all the police, firefighters and medical frontliners for their work during Covid-19. I want to thank my officers Paul Mae, Alethea, Ivan, my volunteers Mr. Leong, Mr. Ho, Mr. Phang, James, Gabriel, Wyhow, Melody, Jarrat and the two Michelles for their dedication and good work. I also want to thank all my interns for their questions, ideas, hard work and efforts.

I want to particularly mention Paul Mae, my star officer who left us in end of May. Paul Mae will be joining a multinational pharmaceutical company, specialising in financial planning. I also want to welcome Ivan, our new officer who was a former intern and a law graduate. Ivan joined us in January.

Lastly, I want to remind and urge all my constituents, to stay safe and be vigilant; together we can contain and overcome Covid-19.

Yours sincerely,

Wong Chen



MALAYSIA

PARLIAMENTARY AND SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE UPDATES



PARLIAMENTARY

Following a political crisis and change in federal government in late February 2020, the Perikatan Nasional government has decided that the first meeting of the third session of the 14th Parliament session (originally scheduled for the 9th of March 2020) be pushed back by two months to the 18th of May 2020.

The one-day Parliament sitting on 18th of May 2020 was convened with the purpose of fulfilling the constitutional obligations enshrined under the Federal Constitution. The one-day sitting of Parliament also saw the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah delivering his royal address with no debates following thereafter. The government has also postponed the tabling of the 12th Malaysia Plan and Budget 2021.

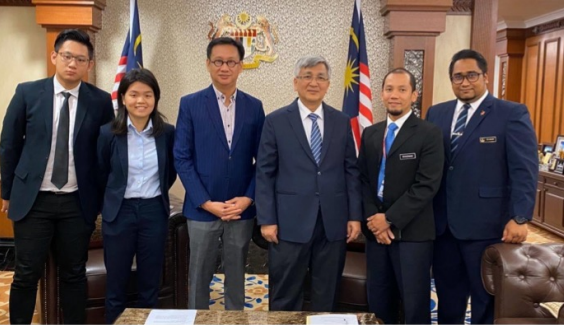


SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE

At the beginning of the year, Wong Chen has been busy with his role as the Chairman of the Special Select Committee on International Relations and Trade (CIRT). Wong Chen kickstarted CIRT's calendar with a courtesy call on the Speaker of Dewan Rakyat, Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff bin Md Yusof, to discuss about the terms of reference and administrative aspect of the committee. The committee members then paid a courtesy call on the then Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of International Trade and Industry to further understand the respective ministries' priorities for the year.

On the 7th of February 2020, Wong Chen chaired the first-ever hearing for CIRT on Malaysia-Palestine bilateral relations. The hearing started off with briefings given by senior civil servants from the respective ministries, followed by testimonies given by Mr Sheikh Hamid al-Ahmar, former Yemeni Member of Parliament-cum-President of the League of Parliamentarians for Al-Quds, and Mr Muslim Imran, Chairman of the Palestinian Cultural Organisation Malaysia as witnesses. The report of the hearing has been finalized and is expected to be tabled and published in the upcoming Parliament sitting.

During that period of time, Wong Chen also had multiple engagements with foreign dignitaries such as the Cuban, Norwegian, Venezuelan, Japanese and African Union Ambassadors, and representatives from the American Embassy and British High Commission. Wong Chen had more meaningful engagements and committee hearings lined up but unfortunately, all committee activities have been suspended due to Covid-19 and unfolding the political crisis.





COMMUNITY AND WELFARE UPDATES

COMMUNITY AND WELFARE

From January to June 2020, the office has managed a total of 290 cases. In the span of six months, the majority of cases are generally related to: (i) citizenship and immigration, (ii) social welfare assistance, (iii) federal government authorities or agencies, and (iv) legal affairs.

At the beginning of the year, the office had initially planned for some major community projects, with the theme of “First Responders” in mind. For this, the office had intended to utilise RM2 million allocation to repair infrastructures of police stations and fire departments located within the Subang constituency. The balance RM1.5 million was allocated for critical schools repairs and other community projects. There were also plans to extend our welfare assistance programme for students from B40 families. However, due to the change in government and that the office is back as an opposition, all of our community and welfare projects have been suspended.

Then in late March, our office and other Opposition MPs received RM100,000 allocation from the federal government, specifically for Covid-19 relief efforts. To date, the office had spent a total of RM77,000 of that amount. The office provided personal protective equipment (PPE) to the frontliners such as the police force and fire departments, and contributed to the local councillors who were organizing food aid distribution programmes on the ground during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period.

290

CASES

42

ASSOCIATIONS

8

WELFARE

RM77,000

COVID-19

RM217,000

ASSOCIATIONS

RM6,750

WELFARE

COMMUNITY AND WELFARE

When the MCO came into force, the office was caught in a very difficult position, because we simply had no meaningful allocations to help our poorest constituents who were heavily affected by the MCO and Covid-19.

Then in early April, a Buddhist group reached out to the office and offered to fund the community work of the office. The group forwarded a total of RM81,000, of which the office distributed RM64,000 to the poor, the balance RM13,000 to welfare volunteers on the ground and cover postal fee. The office then designed a “contactless” welfare aid program and the program we finally designed is simple and safe; we purchased 99 Speedmart cash vouchers and posted the vouchers to the poorest families via registered post.

With the assistance of the local councillors, we identified the poorest families and contacted each and every one of the recipients to verify their personal details and mailing address. The cash vouchers were then packed and mailed out via Pos Laju. For this program, we were able to support 175 families. This project is known as the P104 Subang Social Distancing Project (<https://bit.ly/P104Subang-SocialDistancingProject>).

In addition, the office also collaborated with Makchic, an online parenting site for urban parents, to work on the #Mums4Mums public fundraising campaign, with the goal of helping vulnerable and single mothers affected by the MCO as well. From this campaign, we received a total of RM9,000 from Makchic and the funds were distributed to 30 single mothers. At the same time, we also received RM7,500 in donation from a personal friend of the office.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the generous donors for their kind contribution during these unprecedented times. Together, we were able to support a total of 205 families meaningfully.

RM97,500

DONATIONS

205

FAMILIES

3

DONORS





OFFICERS' AND INTERNS' TESTIMONIALS

OFFICERS' TESTIMONIALS

Goh Paul Mae

Outgoing Officer

June 2018 – May 2020



After two years of editing this newsletter segment, the time has come for me to write my own testimonial. Upon graduation, I was stuck at a crossroad – to accelerate my career in finance or to work for a Member of Parliament. Out of curiosity, I chose the road less travelled. Who would have known that this journey would turn out to be such an adventure?

During my tenure, I was exposed to a variety of issues, and most times, work was unpredictable and chaotic. Words cannot express my gratitude to the P.104 family for keeping me sane. From the mentorship and guidance by Wong Chen and Mr Leong (chief volunteer) to the encouragements from my amazing colleagues, my days were always filled with a sense of accomplishment. Work became more enjoyable with jokes and laughter shared amongst the team. No matter the circumstance, we knew we could count on each other to push through times of uncertainty. I will always treasure our moments together. In the words of my predecessor, Nadirah Sharif, 'You may leave the P104 office, but your soul never leaves'. Now I truly understand what she meant.

I consider myself blessed to have the opportunity to serve the Subang constituency and in a way, my country. If I had to make the same decision from two years ago, I'd choose the P.104 office again.

OFFICERS' TESTIMONIALS

Wong Ivan

Incoming Officer

January 2020 – Present



Returning to P104 as an officer was an opportunity that I would not miss out on. It has always been my intention to do my part to serve the nation and to help bring forward the necessary reforms to our political system. This sentiment was similarly shared by Wong Chen through all the discussion we had during my time as an intern in this office.

As a law graduate, this job gives me the opportunity to be exposed to legal issues that one would not experience from working in a legal firm. Even though I have limited legal knowledge, I will try my best to serve the constituents with their legal issues.

I thank Wong Chen for giving me this opportunity to serve the people of Subang as well as the nation through this job.

INTERNS' TESTIMONIALS

Tuva Kristen Jansen

January 2020

My week at YB Wong Chen's office has been filled with exciting experiences and learnings. As a Norwegian citizen in Malaysia, these five days have been truly valuable in regards to learning more about Malaysian politics and community service. The warmest regards to YB, his officers and his interns for letting me take part as an intern in the office. I would absolutely recommend all those who have an interest in political affairs and community work to apply for an internship at YB Wong Chen's office.



Daniel Gan

December 2019 – January 2020

I'm grateful to be given the opportunity to intern for P104. I have learnt so much in my time in this office and met so many amazing fellow interns and officers. I am honoured to be able to learn from YB Wong Chen personally and enjoyed many conversations with him. One of my favourite lessons was on fractional banking and economy. That lesson has changed my worldview on how money flows in the economy. Thank you YB Wong Chen and the officers of the P104 office once again, and I hope you keep fighting the good fight.



INTERNS' TESTIMONIALS

Lau Hiu Naam

December 2019 – February 2020

My time at P104 is certainly an eye-opening one that I'm grateful for. I was lucky enough to be able to shadow YB Wong Chen to his committee hearings which exposed me to all sorts of global political and economical issues. The best part about the internship was talking to YB Wong Chen, the officers and interns about everything ranging from UK politics to our favourite movies. It was a truly meaningful three months.

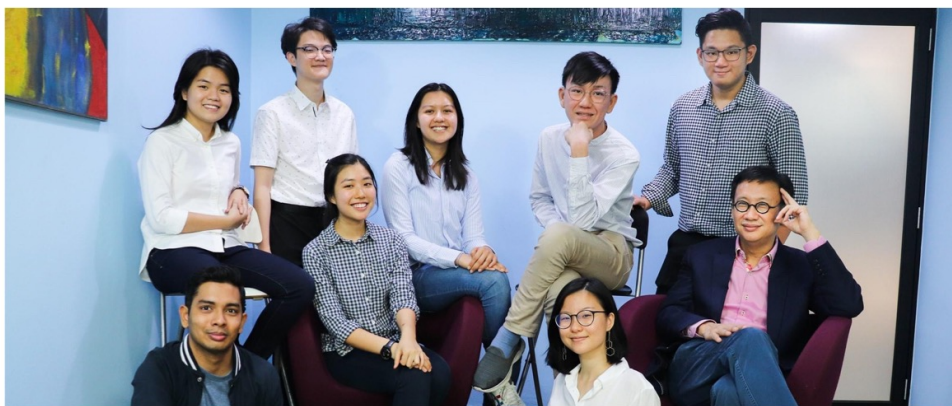


Mikaila Iman Butt

January – March 2020

During my time at P104, I went on site visits, took part in Monday Night Chat, visited Parliament, prepared research and sat in on our country's first select committee hearing on international relations and trade - not to mention countless office 'makan-makan'. In short, my time at P104 was full of novel experiences. I am hugely indebted to the officers, my fellow interns, Mr. Leong and of course Boss for making my time there what it was. I could go on about how hardworking, patient and resourceful Boss' tight-knit team is but if you're reading this and considering applying to intern - you should find out for yourself. A better practical education in politics, you will not find.







FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ALLOCATION SPENDING

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

P104 Subang is committed to full transparency and disclosure of our accounts and finances.

P104 Subang Statement as at 30th June 2020

Balance Sheet

<u>Asset</u>	<u>RM</u>
Cash and bank balance	545,514
	<hr/> 545,514
<u>Liability</u>	
Loan from Wong Chen	53,000
Net excess for the period	<hr/> 492,514 <hr/>

Income Statement

<u>Income</u>	
Grant	800,000 N1
Donations	97,500 N2
Interest	888
	<hr/> 898,388
<u>Less: Expenses</u>	
Community	223,750 N1
Donations	89,100 N2
Salaries, allowances & bonuses	59,860
EPF, SOCSO & EIS	8,063
Rental of premises	12,000
Utilities	5,709
Staff training	3,000
General expenses	1,749
Office maintenance	1,138
Office supplies	1,078
Bank charges	427
	<hr/> 405,874 <hr/>
Net excess for the period	<hr/> 492,514 <hr/>

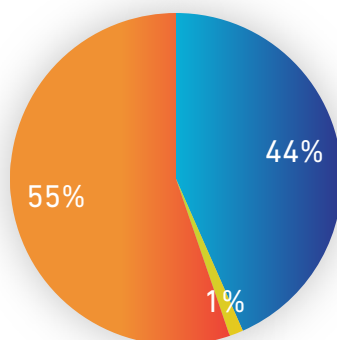
Notes:

1. RM800,000 was received from the federal government in January 2020 of which RM500,000 was allocated for community spendings and RM300,000 for office expenses. Refer to the following page for the breakdown of community spendings.
2. RM97,500 donations was received from three (3) private donors between April 2020 to May 2020. Refer to the following page for more information about this spending.

ALLOCATION SPENDING

In January 2020, P104 Subang has received a total of RM500,000 for community allocation from the federal government, of which RM217,000 was for associations and pledges and RM6,750 was for social welfare assistance. Then, following the change in government, all subsequent community spending has been suspended.

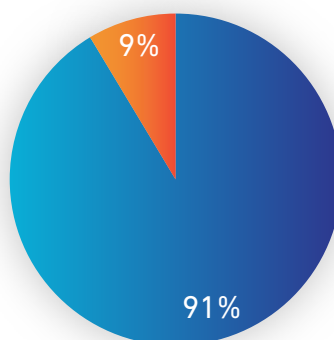
Allocation Spending as at 30th June 2020



■ Associations & Pledges ■ Social Welfare Assistance ■ Cash & Bank Balance

In April and May 2020, P104 Subang has received a total of RM97,500 in donation from three (3) private donors. The main purpose of the donations were for Covid-19 support and relief efforts, especially to the B40 families who were heavily affected by the pandemic.

Donation Spending as at 30th June 2020



■ Social Welfare Assistance ■ Cash & Bank Balance

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

We serve all residents in the Parliamentary constituency of Subang which includes:

- USJ 1 -15; USJ 16 -22; SS 12 -19; PJS 7, 9, 11, Bandar Sunway; Kinrara Seksyen 1-7; Puchong Jaya Timur; Puchong Jaya Barat; Puchong Jaya Utara; Batu 12 & 13 Puchong; Batu 7 Jalan Puchong; Bandar Kinrara Seksyen 1-5; Pusat Bandar Puchong; Bandar Puteri; Puchong Indah 1-2; Puchong Perdana 1-2; Puchong Intan

Parliamentary Affairs:

- Raise various national issues on your behalf
- Represent Subang on policies and laws
- Update residents on all national issues

Community Affairs:

- Support application for medical aid and welfare payments
- Apply for medical exemptions
- Connect with welfare and medical NGOs

Citizenship and Immigration Affairs:

- Support application for blue identity cards and issue letter of enquiries
- Follow up with Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara and Immigration Department

Intern at P104 Subang!

Apply at <http://bit.ly/P104Subang-InternshipApplication>



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