

# *Constituency Newsletter*



**WONG CHEN**

**Member of Parliament**

**P.104 Subang**

**Issue #14 | Jan 2020**



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# *Foreword from Wong Chen*

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**Dear Subangites,**

## **2019 Overview**

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This is my fourth newsletter to you as your Member of Parliament for Subang. It was a very busy 2019 in terms of community projects; we did a total of 81 projects in Subang Jaya and Kinrara. However, we have had a relatively disappointing 2019 for parliamentary reforms. My parliamentary work continued with full attendance of all sittings, except two days when I was away overseas on official duties.

The year also saw me attending some 80 hearings and meetings for the Public Accounts Committee (PAC). For 2020, I will move on from PAC to chair a new select committee, The International Relations and Trade Committee. On diplomatic engagements, I also have had a very busy 2019. The highlight of the year for me was to go to New York to give a talk at the UK Mission to the United Nations.

## **Parliamentary Reforms: July to December 2019**

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From July to December 2019, there were two parliamentary sessions. The first parliamentary session was from July 1st until July 18th 2019. The second parliamentary session was from the 7th of October until the 5th of December 2019. During both parliamentary periods, there were very few legislative reforms passed. There was a constitutional amendment to lower the minimum age of voting to 18. This also brought in the idea of automatic registration of all voters. While I have no issue with lowering the voting age, I do have a problem regarding the fact that compulsory voting was not included. With the lowering of the voting age and the implementation of automatic registration, the number of voters for the next general election will increase by around seven million. If compulsory voting is not implemented, the risk of electoral fraud will increase.

Other than the above, there were no reforms on the many existing draconian laws such as SOSMA and the Sedition Act. The IPCMC bill was postponed. The constitutional amendment to limit the terms of the prime-minister to two terms, will only be debated in March 2020. The Parliamentary Services Act bill, that would ensure greater separation of powers did not materialise in 2019. Prime Minister Question Time promised by the government also did not materialise. In summary, 2019 saw no substantial systems or governance reforms. Despite having 48 days of parliamentary sittings in the last six months, we have nothing much to show in terms of reforms. The New Malaysia is making slow progress.

On the 2020 federal budget, I gave a critical speech which received very wide coverage in the news. I intend to continue to constructively criticize my own government in lieu of the lack of reforms from the Prime Minister and his cabinet. The time has passed due for us to deliver on our promises. We can no longer use the same excuses over and over again for not reforming. The sad truth is 70% of the reforms do not require a lot of money, and 90% of the promised legislative reforms need only 51% approval from the MPs. Do we have that 51%? Of course we do, that is why we are the current government. As of December 2019, Pakatan Harapan and allies has 139 seats out of a total of 222 seats, we have 62%. We just seem to have suppressed the political will to reform.

In the last 6 months, I have sat in 47 PAC hearings and meetings of which I have consistently questioned my own ministers and senior civil servants on matters regarding wastage and corruption. The biggest PAC case that I was involved in was an estimated RM600 million in annual losses from the cooking gas subsidy scheme. On the issue of the GST, I spoke out when the government overestimated the amount repayable and due. On the DBKL land deals, I spoke out on the lack of transparency of deals and valuation, and that more must be done to improve overall governance. On fiscal matters, I made suggestions to the auditor general and accountant general to tighten up financial discipline and to put in greater efforts to contain the ever growing national debt.



## **Diplomacy: July to December 2019**

On the diplomatic front, I hosted 12 dinners at my house for ambassadors and foreign dignitaries in the last 6 months. Most notably, I hosted the senior Cambodian MPs in exile, several Hong Kong legislators, the European Union Ambassador, the New Zealand Ambassador, the Canadian Ambassador, the Danish Ambassador and the German Ambassador. I also attended multiple diplomatic events hosted by the Mexican, Cuban, German, French, Norwegian, European Union, Italian and British embassies.

## **Events and talks: July to December 2019**

The last 6 months also saw me travelling abroad on official trips. In early July, I was in New York to give a speech for the United Kingdom's United Nations mission. I shared my views on Malaysian parliamentary reforms and the challenges to the same. In late July, I gave a talk to senior Singaporean officials who were visiting Kuala Lumpur. I talked about the state of Malaysian economy, the BRI and regional geo-politics. In August, I attended the CAPAC Asia workshop in Taiwan and met Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-Wen and the delegations from Pacific Islands. In late August, I attended the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Association (AIPA) conference where I championed a resolution on climate change in Bangkok. In November, I attended the ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR) in Phuket, where I participated in charting new policies to improve human rights in the region.

## **Community Projects and Events: July to December 2019**

On the community front, I attended 43 community events in the last 6 months. My volunteers stood in for 22 other events on my behalf. However, we are most proud of our community projects where I'm very happy to announce that we are on track to complete a total of 81 projects for 2019. We have met the community spending target for Project Mesra Rakyat at the rate of 99.98%, and 98.7% of Peruntukan Khas. In other words, we have fully utilized all allocations for the community in 2019.



Lastly, I want to thank YB Ng Sze Han, YB Michelle Ng, all the councillors, MPSJ officers and community leaders for their continuous service to the constituents of Parliament Subang. I want to also thank my officers Paul Mae, Dhinaa, Alethea, Kevin, my volunteers Mr. Leong, Mr. Ho, Mr. Phang, James, Gabriel, Wyhow, Melody, Jarrat and the two Michelles for their dedication and good work. I want to thank all my interns for their questions, ideas, hard work and efforts.

I want to particularly mention Dhinaa and Kevin, my two officers who left the office in 2019. All the very best in your future endeavours. Dhinaa will be starting work at Karim Raslan Associates in 2020 and Kevin will pursue his dream to be a lawyer. I would also like to welcome my two new officers, Alethea and Ivan. Alethea joined us in September and Ivan will be joining us full time in January 2020.

Last but not least, I want to wish all my constituents and a Happy New Year!



# *Parliamentary Updates*

There were two parliamentary sittings in the second half of the year - in July and October. The outcomes of the two sittings were a testament to the current government's performance level, whether or not they carry out the reforms promised in the Pakatan Harapan (PH) manifesto. However, not much was made of the opportunity for the government to carry out the legislative reforms promised in its election manifesto. Below are highlights of the Subang parliamentary office in the last two meetings of the second term of the 14th Parliament.

In the second sitting in July, which had only 12 days, Wong Chen primarily spoke out on two issues: asset declaration, and transfer of power of appointing the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief from the Prime Minister to Parliament. Regarding the former issue, Wong Chen stressed that the format contains two loopholes that must be closed: not requiring MPs' children who are above 21 to declare their assets, and the absence of an independent body to monitor the declarations. As for the power to appoint the MACC chief, Wong Chen asked the PM to state his position on this. YB Liew Vui Keong, the law minister, answered that the government is working on a proposal to amend the MACC Act, and he has met the Dewan Rakyat Speaker, Tan Sri Mohamad Ariff bin Md Yusof, and the head of the select committee on public appointments, YB William Leong, to draft an amendment to the MACC act.

The October-December meeting took 36 days. This was a particularly important sitting, in which Budget 2020 was tabled and many key issues were raised by MPs on both sides of the fence. Wong Chen's budget speech called for increased government focus on socio-economic justice primarily on two matters: (1) increase of the minimum wage to RM1,500 in 2021, from RM1,100 in 2020, and (2) progressive taxation.





Concerning the increasingly urgent issue of climate change, Wong Chen questioned the Deputy Minister of Energy, Science, Technology, Environment and Climate Change, on implementing carbon tax on the independent power plants. The deputy minister's reply, however, indicated zero government commitment to a carbon tax despite the fact that 80% of carbon dioxide emissions originate from these power plants, and all the independent power plants enjoy super-lucrative profits for 21 years under their power purchase agreements.

Wong Chen had a Special Chamber hearing with the Deputy Minister of Health, YB Lee Boon Chye, with regard to a proposal for a health clinic in USJ 1. After a long-running tussle with the federal government-dating back to the Barisan Nasional administration-the ministry has finally committed itself to build a health clinic in USJ 1. The next step is to identify the type of clinic and the scope of services needed for the proposed clinic. Proposals for this project will be submitted under the upcoming 12th Malaysia Plan (2021-2025). The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

Lastly, Wong Chen was selected as the chairman of a new parliamentary committee: International Relations and Trade Committee. Therefore, he will no longer serve in the Public Accounts Committee. His new committee will function as a check-and-balance mechanism on two ministries: of foreign affairs, and international trade and industry. Going forward, the office will now shift most of our focus on international trade and foreign affairs.



# Community and Welfare

Since July 2019 to end of 2019, the office has managed a total of 432 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, and (iv) legal problems. In addition, our office executed a major welfare program and a comprehensive community project both, with the theme of “school” for this year.

On the welfare project front, the office contributed a total of RM200,000 for our Program Bantuan Sekolah Murid Miskin. The program is a welfare assistance program whereby we provided monetary aid to students from the B40 family selected on a needs basis by respective PIBGs. The office worked together with all the 51 schools within the Subang parliament constituency to shortlist an average of 35 students from each school, which totalled up to 1,785 underprivileged student receiving welfare aid from our office.

Furthermore, on the community project front, the office contributed a total of RM2.6 million for our Projek Baikpulih Sekolahku. All 51 schools received RM50,000 each for infrastructure repair works.



2020 Calendar Distribution with ADUN Kinrara Office



Wong Chen with Constituents



Launch of Sri Tanjung USJ 16 Garden Staircase



Attending Women's Carnival by MPSJ

# *Interns' Testimonials*



1. There were many great moments during the course of my internship and my highlights were always the lectures with Boss [Wong Chen]. During those lectures, I learnt not only on the politics and economics of many countries but also on my personal development. The experience was one of a kind and everyone here is amazing!



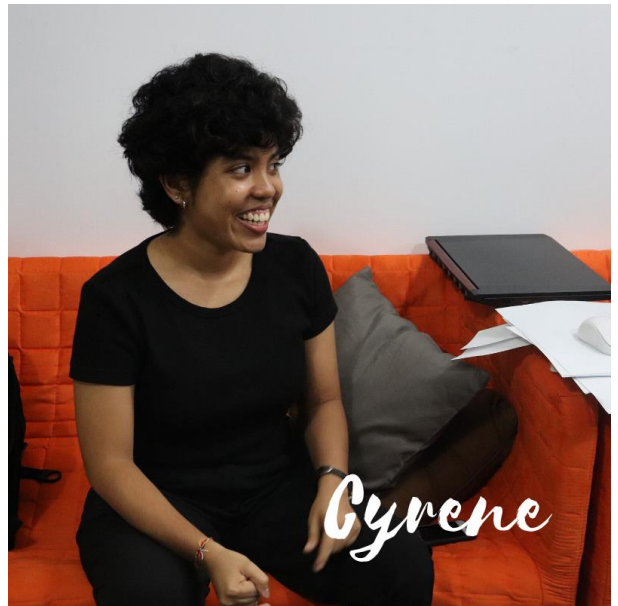
2. Interning with Wong Chen has been a humbling and rewarding experience. I gained insights and knowledge through my interactions with Wong Chen, other fellow colleagues, volunteers and even constituents. Exposed to various perspectives, I challenged myself to think critically. This experience has been invaluable to me.



3. Volunteering as an intern at Wong Chen's office has been a valuable experience that broadened my understanding of Malaysian politics. This included visits to Parliament, sit-down discussions with MPs, policy and reform brainstorming sessions, and detailed explanations of the issues hindering Malaysia's prosperity.



4. A favourite memory of mine is how Wong Chen would call his interns into his office for a chat. I've always appreciated the fact that he genuinely had the interest to get to know who his interns are. It's rare to meet someone who can engage with you in a conversation even on extra-terrestrial beings! Working here has made me realise that the problems I have are nothing compared to the problems of the people who walk into our office.



5. My internship experience with Wong Chen has been nothing short of amazing. Assisting the officers, helping constituents, talks with Wong Chen - it was all a great learning opportunity! Although it was a short stint, I have gained valuable life skills throughout my time at the office.



6. I am grateful for the short one-month internship at the P104 office. It has taught me that although the political situation in Malaysia may seem disheartening at times, we must not lose heart in striving towards a truly reformed nation.







7. Interning with Wong Chen was a fascinating and educational working experience. In this position, I gained plenty of first-hand experience regarding the Malaysian public sector, policy making, and insight into the day-to-day life of lawmakers and politicians. I also polished many of my professional skills and learned how to work and communicate effectively within a small team, skills that will serve me well now and in the future.



8. An unexpected, yet rewarding journey. This is how I would summarize my internship with the P104 office. From meeting Parliamentarians, conversations with Wong Chen himself, to partaking in policy analyses and serving the Subang constituency; this experience has certainly been a learning process that fuels growth.



9. My time as an intern with Wong Chen was very meaningful and important to me. I've learned about the rough structure of how the Malaysian government operates, how to talk to constituents, engage in community activities, and so much more! The greatest part of interning in the office is how warm and welcoming the officers and the interns are - they make you feel included right away!

10. The internship experience has taught me more than I could have imagined. I have learned a lot of practical things about this field throughout my internship. The elements of this internship such as service to constituents, research on parliamentary reforms and participation in public talks, are all instructive experiences that have helped me to develop my analytical and interpersonal skills.



11. My time in the P104 office was brief but rewarding. It was a humbling experience to see what happens on the ground through service nights and site visits we conducted. Most importantly, you get a boss who answers questions you dare ask. Give this internship a go, you won't regret it!



12. Wong Chen is one of the few Parliamentarians with a passion for policy-making. Despite his busy schedule, he takes every opportunity to sit down and chat with his interns. We had the craziest of conversations. Even at the end of my term,, he showed concern of my future, giving me a few wise words, which I will carry with me as I enter the corporate world. Thank you, Boss.



# *Officers' Testimonials*



## ***Outgoing Officer: Dhinaa Rajendran***

1. This job is all-encompassing! You are exposed to different surroundings all the time, from attending fancy dinner parties to visiting constituents living in sub-par conditions. The bottom-up interactions you get to have with constituents will open your eyes to their intricate realities and the less-than-effective impact of government policies on their everyday lives. This job teaches you the importance of engaging with the rakyat meaningfully and reflecting on that engagement through effective policy making. But the best part of this job is, of course, the amazing people that you get to work with!



## ***Outgoing Officer: Kevin Ling***

2. I am extremely proud that boss has stood firm in his political beliefs and his grand view on policy-making for as long as he is in the field. A true reformist like himself is consistent, fearless and genuine. He is one of the greatest assets in the history of Malaysian politics. My time in this office is nothing but a fruitful one under his guidance; a seemingly short journey that'll last for a long time.



## ***Incoming Officer: Alethea Wong***

3. As a fresh graduate who is passionate about nation-building and understanding the intersection between behavioural science and public policy, I took my chance and joined the P104 Subang office as a Research Officer. I believe that the current government and our country have undoubtedly much more to do to progress given the current political landscape. As such, I am eager to work with Wong Chen and continue to materialise the promised reforms.



# *Faces & Places*



Wong Chen with Prabakaran & Akmal Nasir at AIPA 2019



Victory over Rafizi Ramli's BAFIA Trial



Ride for Autism Event



Meeting with Constituents



Norwegian Seafood Gala



Wong Chen with Local Community



Wong Chen with other MPs at AIPA 2019 Solidarity Dinner





Community cancer screening with DUN Kinrara



With Samy, Ketua Cabang for Kelana Jaya



Tree planting session in Parliament



Friendly football event in Subang Jaya



P3KU event in the Summit



Educare by Subang Jaya Buddhist Association



Welfare visit in Puchong





Taipei Economic & Cultural Office annual dinner



The first day of parliament sitting



The interns with YB Nurul Izzah



Meeting with the Speaker Tan Sri Ariff



At the Shah Alam High Court supporting Rafizi



YB Mansor back in Parliament



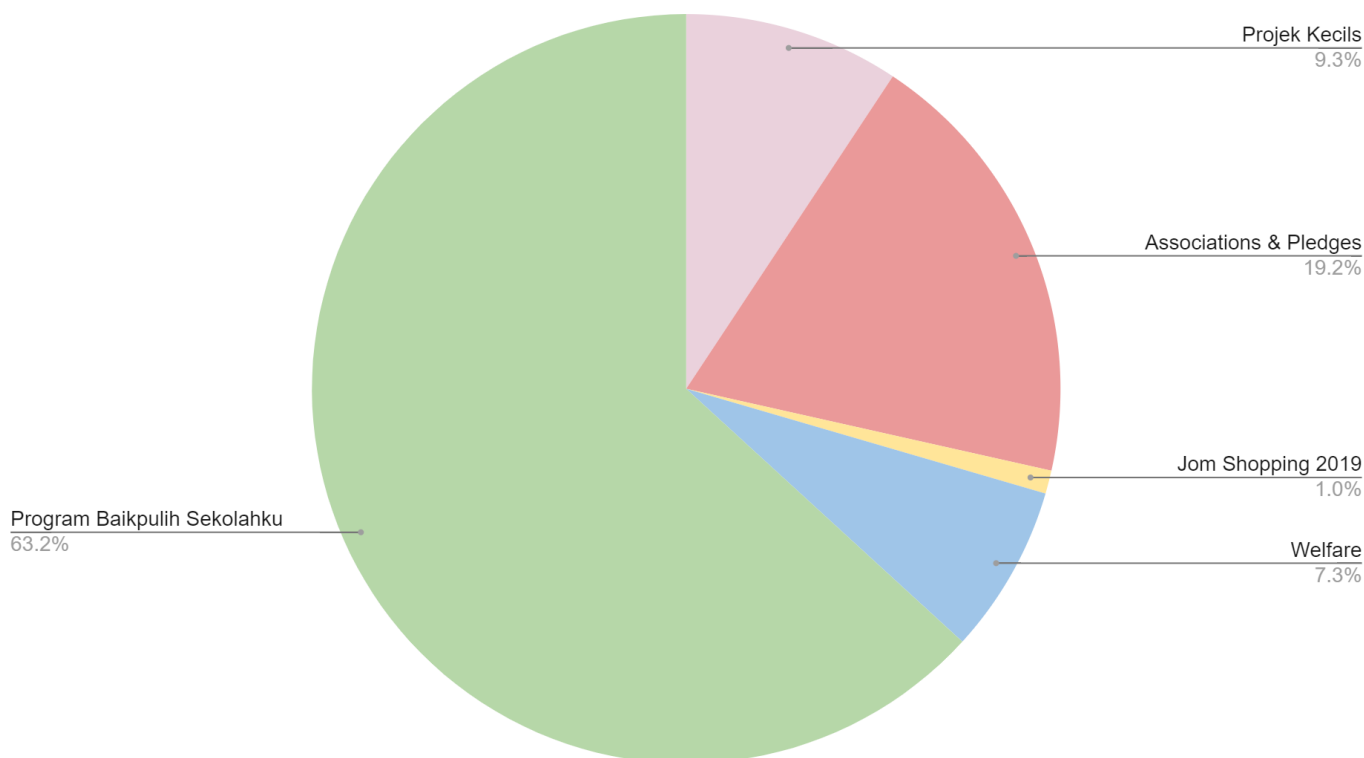
With the officers and interns



# *P104 Allocation Spending*

Our office has received a community allocation from the federal government amounting to RM 3.5 million for the year 2019. This is an increase of RM 2.3 million compared to what we received in 2018. The following pie chart depicts our spending for the year on welfare to the hardcore poor, associations, pledges, Jom Shopping projects, and infrastructure projects.

Figure 1. Allocation Spent as of 31st December 2019



For the year 2019, we spent 100% of our community allocation. This of course, would not have been possible without the help of our officers: Dhinaa, Tina, Kevin, Alethea, and Paul Mae, who dedicated their time and effort. We also thank the dedicated officers from the Land Office (Petaling branch) and the Prime Minister's Implementation Coordination Unit (ICU) Selangor for their assistance. It has been a fruitful year for us, and the Parliament Subang constituency.

We are also attaching our 2019 accounts to maintain our commitment of  
**full transparency and disclosure.**

**P104 Financial Statements as at 31st December 2019**

**Balance Sheet**

	<u>RM</u>
<b><u>Assets</u></b>	
Cash and bank balances	36,828
	<u>36,828</u>
<b><u>Liability</u></b>	
Loan from Wong Chen	(30,000)
<b>Net Excess for the period</b>	<b><u>6,828</u></b>

**Income Statement on 31st December 2019**

	<u>RM</u>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	
Grant	300,000
Donation	538
	<b><u>300,538</u></b>
<b><u>Less: Expenses</u></b>	
Salaries, Allowances & Bonus	187,177
EPF, SOCSO & EIS	19,490
Rental of premise	24,000
Office Supplies	20,362
Utilities	15,038
General Expenses	13,265
Renovation	3,730
Staff training	3,450
Office Maintenance	3,269
Community Outreach	2,940
Bank Charges	989
	<b><u>293,710</u></b>
<b>Net Excess for the period</b>	<b><u>6,828</u></b>



# *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 Issues**

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

## **Community Issues**

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

## **Citizenship Issues**

- Support applications for blue ICs and issue letters of enquiries
- Follow up with JPN and immigration