

# *Constituency Newsletter*



WONG CHEN

Member of Parliament

P.104 Subang

Issue #13 | July 2019



# *Table of Contents*

**01** Foreword from Wong Chen

**02** Parliamentary Session Updates

**03** Policy Paper Highlights

**04** Community & Welfare

**05** Interns Testimonial

**06** Staff Testimonial

**07** Faces & Places

**08** P.104 Allocation Spending

**09** What We Can Do For You





# *Foreword from Wong Chen*

*My dear Subangites,*

---

This is my third newsletter to you as the Member of Parliament for Subang. It has been a very busy half-year for me. Broadly speaking, I have been focusing on Parliamentary reforms, Public Accounts Committee (PAC) hearings, diplomatic engagements and the caucus working group meeting of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA). On the community front, my office continues to professionally deal with your complaints and attend numerous community events. We have also embarked on a RM2.55 million project to repair all 51 public schools in Subang.

## *Parliamentary Updates*

---

In January 2019, I joined the Speaker of Parliament for a week-long visit to the UK Parliament. We had 25 meetings with MPs and UK Parliament officials on all matters to do with the principles, laws, rules and administration of the UK Parliament. The visit galvanised my resolve to continue to push the agenda of Parliamentary reforms in Malaysia. We only had one sitting in the last six months, and I am happy to report that I attended every day of the March parliamentary sitting. I am pleased that my speech in reply to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong's speech, was supported by both sides of the divide and garnered a rather wide viewing.



YB Nurul Izzah and myself had a public disagreement with the Prime Minister, when he did not want the PAC to be headed by an Opposition MP. This dispute dragged on for about three weeks between March and April 2019. In the end, the Prime Minister relented and YB Noraini Ahmad of UMNO was appointed to head the PAC. In the last six months, the PAC has had ten hearings and four housekeeping sessions to write our reports.

In addition to the above, I have assisted Parliament in greeting MPs from Germany, Singapore, and Bhutan. I was also tasked to chair the working group on Climate Change at the very recent (June 2019) AIPA caucus, held in KL. The event saw some 30 MPs from ASEAN participating. To prepare for the event, I spent about eight weeks conducting deep policy research on the issue of climate change, focusing primarily on carbon pricing. I believe the caucus was a success and that we made a positive influence on the participating ASEAN MPs.





## *Diplomacy*

The last six months have been very busy for me on the diplomatic front. In view of the lack of reforms in Malaysian politics, I have decided to redirect some of my focus on expanding my diplomatic network. On that front, I have had meetings with the Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the EU, Norway, Cuba, Nederland, Colombia, Canada, Singapore, Taiwan, Uruguay, France, Denmark and Italy. Again, I had 27 diplomatic engagements over the period of 6 months, whereby I hosted dinner in my house on 14 occasions.



## *National Economic Issues*

The Malaysian economy has continued to underperform in the last six months. On the macro side, the revival of the controversial ECRL project may help inject foreign capital inflow in the next six months.





However, I am less than convinced that this project is truly viable or effective as a long-term economic generator. On the consumption front, we witnessed a relatively quiet Chinese New Year and Hari Raya. On a brighter note, prices of goods have stabilised and prices of some essential items have dropped marginally. Wages remain unchanged and public unhappiness is becoming more obvious.

The US-China trade war continues to be an issue but with the recent US-Iran tensions, we may see stronger oil revenues in the coming months. My most critical issue on the economy, which is an open disagreement with my own government, is the lack of institutional political reforms. The Malaysian economy is a completely politicised economy and unless we make good on upholding the separation of powers, and implement a robust system of checks and balances to the excessive powers of the Executive, our economy risk being stuck in the old crony capitalism model.



## *Community Work*

---

On the community front, we have handled 546 new cases in the last 6 months. I have attended 38 community events. We have also embarked on our big annual project and this year we are committed to repair all 51 public schools in Subang. Each and every school will receive an equal amount of RM50,000. We launched the project in March but the land office that handles these projects are severely understaffed and as such progress has been slow.

In view of the above, I ask all the PIBGs to be a bit more patient as my office will continue to expedite these projects.





Lastly, I want to thank  
***YB Ng Sze Han, YB Michelle Ng,***  
***and the hardworking councillors and JKP members***  
 for the continuing good work in serving Subang.

I would also like to thank my officers, interns, and volunteers for their best efforts in the last six months. I want to particularly thank Tina Lai for her two years of dedicated service to the P104 office; she will be pursuing a new career as a lawyer. I would also like to welcome Kevin Ling, my new officer to the P104 family.

My very best wishes and may the next six months  
 be productive and prosperous to all.





# *Parliamentary Updates*

The March–April sitting was the first parliamentary session for 2019. One hopeful outcome was the appointment of YB Noraini Ahmad as the new head of PAC. Initially, following the Prime Minister's announcement to retain Bersatu's YB Ronald Kiandee as PAC chairman, several backbench MPs including YB Wong Chen and YB Nurul Izzah wrote to the Prime Minister urging him to fulfill the Pakatan Harapan manifesto pledge to appoint an opposition MP as chief of the committee. After an outcry over the issue, the Prime Minister made a call to replace the Beluran MP with the Parit Sulong MP from BN. A small victory—also for gender equality, another manifesto pledge—but a victory nevertheless.

In his royal address, the Yang di-Pertuan Agong touched on the core challenges facing the country and the people. In response to the King's speech, YB Wong Chen agreed that some of these challenges are the rising cost of living and the lack of reforms in anti-corruption and parliamentary administrative processes.



YB Wong Chen continued to emphasise the urgent need for the Pakatan Harapan government to carry out reforms to improve the economy and well-being of the people. YB Wong Chen is pushing for the full restoration of the separation of powers to exercise checks and balances primarily on the executive.



Our office collaborated with the Cuban embassy to arrange for a talk in Parliament on the Cuban national health service. It was an exciting experience for both the officers and interns to work closely with HE Ibete Hernandez, the Cuban ambassador. The talk was accompanied by a Q&A session moderated by YB Wong Chen and gave many MPs a useful insight into Cuban healthcare. YB Wong Chen concluded that with the right policy, Malaysia too can deliver world-class healthcare at lower costs.



“  
*YB Wong Chen has  
attended a total of  
14 PAC Meetings during  
this sitting.*  
”



# *Policy Paper Highlights*

Combining our experience and thorough research,  
our office has prepared a paper titled  
***‘The Cost of Statelessness’***

This paper explores some fundamental issues arising out of statelessness among those born in Malaysia and children of Malaysian parents. Furthermore, it provides a good estimate on the cost of statelessness to the economy when rightful citizenship is denied.

The main findings and conclusions are as follows:

- The estimated economic loss from denying citizenship amounts to RM 6 billion per annum; and,
- With the right political will, the matter of 300,000 stateless persons can be resolved without an increase in departmental budget and within two years.

We further suggest solutions to resolve the issue of statelessness by focusing on, but not limited to:

- amending of the Adoption Act 1952; and,
- introducing DNA testing as conclusive evidence.

By conclusively resolving citizenship cases, Malaysia will yield much higher economic, social and health benefits without incurring any additional administrative costs. If you're interested, please check out our website at [www.wongchen.com/reports](http://www.wongchen.com/reports).





# Community & Welfare



“

*Since 1st January 2019,  
we have handled  
546 cases.*

”





In a period of six months, we learned a common pattern regarding the complaints. These complaints are best explained in three categories; (a) citizenship, (b) legal cases, and (c) welfare assistance.

Below, we share some notable cases according to respective categories.

The bulk of files sit behind the officers' desks, until we finally receive a reply, an update, or a notification of citizenship approval. Unfortunately, receiving a reply from the relevant ministries is a rare occurrence.

As of 25/6/2019, we have only received not more than 12 written replies stating the outcome, or updating the case. We understand that some of our constituents are frustrated, the officers are doing their best to frequently follow up on individual cases.

---

***On citizenship,  
our office  
currently  
handles  
65 cases***

---

Besides that, many of our constituents are caught in legal cases. These range from unfair termination of employment, private disputes, or fraudulent cases. Our superhero volunteer lawyers have been providing legal advice every Wednesday night. However, our constituents need to understand that our volunteer lawyers only provide advice on laws, they do not provide legal services for professional and ethical reasons.





# *A Mother's Cry*

---

Amongst the many welfare cases we have handled, Ms L's harsh situation captured our attention. Ms L became a single mother when her husband left her 14 years ago and never came back. Her first son got into an accident last year and was bed-ridden ever since. He was the only breadwinner of the family. Her whole life was turned upside down.

Her second son was forced to leave medical school due to financial constraints; he has since also abandoned the family.

We learned that Ms L has also been suffering from various medical problems. Adding to her responsibilities, Ms L is taking care of her other two children - aged 15 and 17. It is sad to note that Ms L is just one of the many cases we have dealt with.







***We have allocated RM 2.55 million for the infrastructure repairs of all 51 schools in the Parliament Subang constituency.***

Program Baikpulih Sekolahku 2019 was initiated to create a safe and better learning environment for our students.

“

***This year, our office has distributed RM 20,000 worth of Giant vouchers for Jom Shopping Hari Raya and Jom Shopping Chinese New Year.***

”

We will also be contributing RM 200,000 to our underprivileged students this year.

In addition, an allocation of RM 200,000 has been set for urgent repairs of our community cabins.



56%





# *Interns Testimonial*

A JOURNEY WITH US

## *Shaiyla Anbalagan*

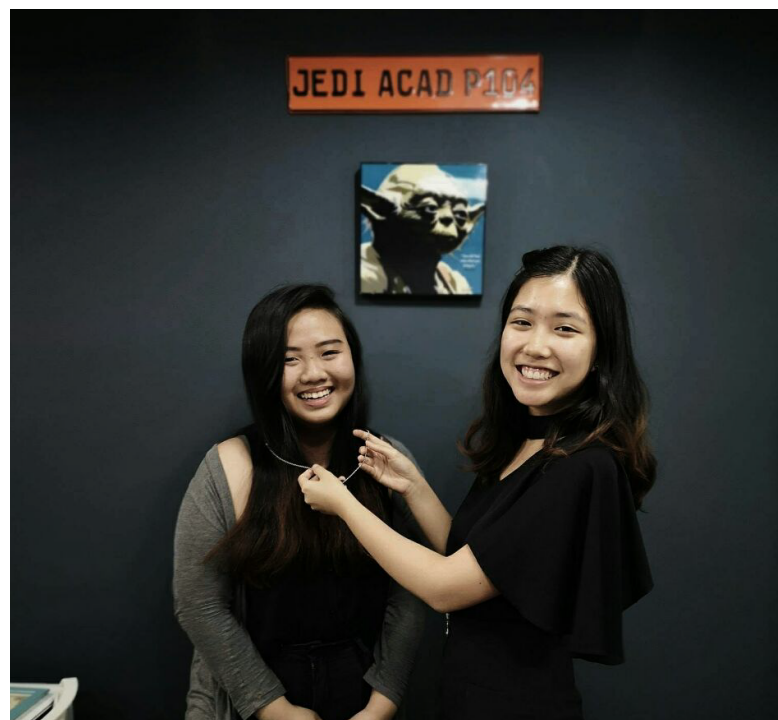
---



My internship with YB Wong Chen really helped grow my passion in politics. It gave me a clearer picture of how our Parliamentarians go about doing their jobs. I have learned various ways in which we as citizens can contribute to our country. Boss and his team were nurturing, friendly and patient.

I was involved in policy research, administrative work, and community projects. The most memorable part of this internship will definitely be the long intellectual conversations we had with Boss. I really appreciate how he makes his interns feel valued.

My internship at the P104 office was one of the best experiences in my journey as an undergraduate! We were given the chance to engage in intriguing conversations with YB, shadow him in his interactions as MP, and acquire holistic knowledge on public policy. Above all, we were able to serve the people of Subang. The learning curve here is steep, and the humbling experience of giving back to the Rakyat is truly like no other. It opened my eyes to Malaysia's political arena, and reaffirmed my passion for nation building. What better way to spend your semester break?



---

*Lee Wei En*



---

## Aaron Leong

I was an intern at the office of YB Wong Chen from February to April 2019. During this period, I was entrusted with assisting the officers in various tasks. These included administrative work, dealing with constituents, and producing the weekly Monday Night Chat episodes.

In addition, YB Wong Chen would have lengthy discussions with me on any topic I was interested in. The knowledge and wisdom I gained from these conversations was invaluable. I also had the unique opportunity to frequent the halls of Parliament as the Dewan Rakyat was in session. As if that wasn't enough, YB Wong Chen even introduced me to some of the most prominent political changemakers in our country!



Being in YB Wong Chen's office has been nothing but an eye-opening experience for me. I thought I knew politics, governance, and nation-building before enrolling here, but I was proven wrong. I learned so much from YB Wong Chen about economics and history whenever he sat with the interns for the occasional question and answer sessions. Also, I had the opportunity to accompany him and his officers several times to Parliament for the working group discussions and the launch of the 10th AIPA Caucus meeting. YB Wong Chen was the chairman for Working Group 2 which dealt with the climate change. I understood more about climate change and how politicians as policy makers, can bring about change for the better.



---

## Nathan Tharmalingam



# Nurul Mardhiah

---



Although I interned at the Office of the Member of Parliament P104 Subang with high expectations, I can testify that it was beyond my expectations. I have never encountered an internship that takes so much time to teach. Boss, in his frequent lectures, spoke about matters surpassing public policy and economy to include issues regarding banking and finance, culture, philosophy, and political history. These helped shape my way of thinking, together with the constant guidance from the officers especially when helping to engage with constituents, to always look at the bigger picture and try to find solutions based on the root cause of any problem.

Interning with YB Wong Chen helped me grow, as a political science student and a Malaysian citizen. He is very intelligent and knowledgeable. He was extremely patient in guiding the interns in understanding policy-making, Malaysian politics and the economy. I was there when he and his officers were pushing for the establishment of standing committees in the parliament. It was when I get to apply what I learnt about separation of powers in my university to a real-life context. It was amazing to realize how important reforms are for the country. Internship in P104 is therefore, a very enriching experience.



---

***Bala Monogaran***





The P104 Subang internship is a humbling experience that I value very much and will always hold dear to my heart. My four-month stint at P104 Subang taught me a few things, predominantly the importance of institutional and political reforms. The internship also strengthened my knowledge on public policy and politics, and it has shown me how a Member of Parliament's office works. By the end of my internship, my opinions on the government were different than when I have first joined the office and I learnt to ask questions that I would never have considered. With that being said, this government and our country have undoubtedly much more to do to progress given the current political landscape but at least I can be optimistic that there are patriotic, talented people who work hard everyday to improve the lives of every Malaysian.





# *Staff Testimonial*

MEET OUR NEW OFFICER,

*Kevin Ling*



Just like everyone else who wanted a change for Malaysia, I took my chance and joined the P104 office as an intern in late 2017. I was tasked to lead on a big project – Asset Declaration, where we urged both sides of MPs to declare their assets prior to the GE14, however, only some of the then opposition MPs declared theirs, and many of them are now ministers in the PH government.

Regardless, it was a big decision to join the office because the political climate in Malaysia was quite unpredictable. Then in 2018, GE14 sparked the historic change of the Malaysian's political landscape – the defeat of the Barisan Nasional coalition also marked the birth of the Pakatan Harapan's 'New Malaysia'.

Many of us thought our mission was completed, but the parliamentary reforms that are fundamental to sustaining the 'New Malaysia' narrative have yet to come. Eventually, in March 2019, I decided to join the office as a full-time officer with a clearer and firmer objective – to materialise the said reforms.

*Why not give it another try?*



AU REVOIR,

*Tina Lai*

It is my honour, to be able to call these four amazing, talented and compassionate individuals my friends and now ex-colleagues: Abigail, Paul Mae, Dhinaa, and Kevin. Not forgetting all of the P104 interns, y'all know who you are.

My time with P104 is up, but the fight for change continues. Thank you for letting me be a part of the movement.









## *P.104 Allocation Spending*

Our office has received a community allocation from the federal government amounting to RM 3.2 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 spending on welfare to the hardcore poor, associations, pledges, Jom Shopping projects, and infrastructure projects.

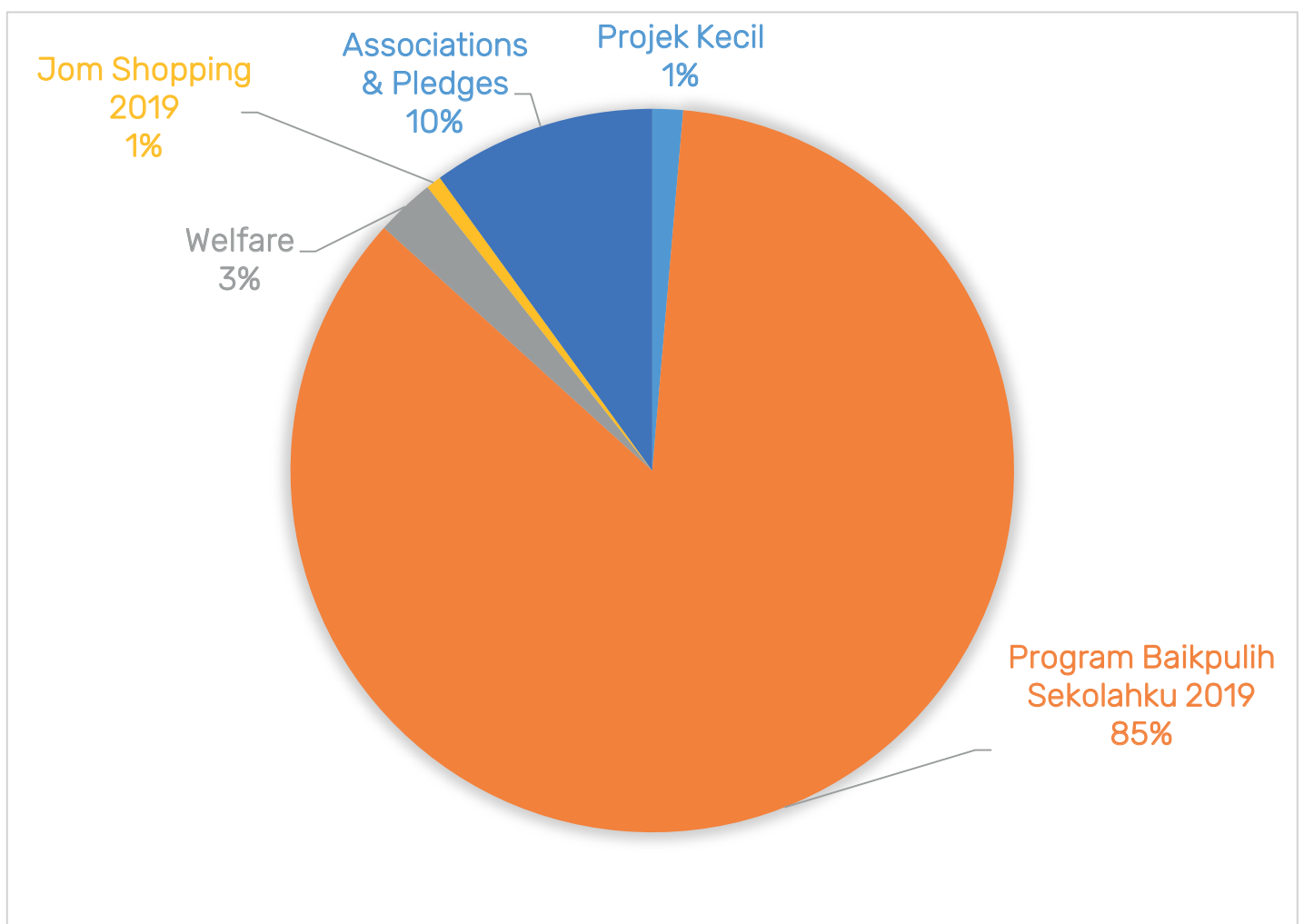


Figure 1. Allocation Spent as of 31st June 2019.



We are also attaching our mid-year accounts to maintain our commitment of

***full transparency and disclosure.***

**P104 Statement as at 30th June 2019**

**Balance Sheet**

**RM**

**Assets**

Cash and bank balances	150,980
Furniture & Fittings	790
	<u>151,770</u>
Net Excess for the period	<u>151,770</u>

**Income Statement**

**Income**

**RM**

Grant	300,000
Donation	538
	<u>300,538</u>

**Less: Expenses**

Salaries, Allowances & Bonus	87,328
EPF, SOCSO & EIS	18,257
Building Rental	12,000
Office Supplies	8,724
Utilities	8,694
Renovation	3,730
General Expenses	4,200
Cleaning Fee	1,550
Community Outreach	2,940
Bank Charges	746
Staff training	600
	<u>148,768</u>

Net Excess for the period	151,770
---------------------------	---------



# ***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