

CONSTITUENCY NEWSLETTER

WONG CHEN

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

P.104 SUBANG

ISSUE #12 / JANUARY 2019





TABLE OF CONTENTS -

Foreword from Wong Chen

Parliamentary Session Updates

Policy Paper Highlights

Welfare & Community

The New Office

Interns Testimonial

Photo Gallery

P.104 Allocation Spending

What We Can Do For You

FOREWORD FROM WONG CHEN

My dear Subangites,

This is my second newsletter to you as the Member of Parliament for Subang. Despite winning the General Election on 5th May 2018, I only assumed my official position on 16th July 2018. As such, we could only start office once the financial allocations for our office were provided. The immediate task then was to rent and then renovate a new office in Kinrara, which took us about two months. We finally opened our doors to you on 1st October 2018.

PARLIAMENTARY DUTIES

I am very happy to report that I attended two parliament sittings; (a) from 16th July to 16th August 2018, and (b) from 8th October to 11th December 2018. In accordance with my duties, I have attended every parliament sitting, except for one day where I was in Kwangju, South Korea for a human rights conference. In total, I delivered seven keynote speeches, mostly focusing on the national budget and the SST. I am a bit dismayed to report that in the last two parliament sessions, the new government has yet to deliver any significant democratic and anti-corruption legislation.

As we enter the new year of 2019, my parliamentary duties are becoming more set. I was appointed to the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) in October 2018, where I have been tasked to look into allegations of corruption and wastage of government and statutory bodies. I have attended nine PAC hearings and had the opportunity to question former PM, Dato' Seri Najib Razak and other senior civil servants and officials. I am also committed to pushing for wide ranging parliamentary reforms. To that end, I have travelled to Norway on the invitation of the Norwegian Government to look at their Standing Committee system. I have also travelled to Singapore and South Korea to look at anti-corruption, human rights, and better governance structures. For 2019, I will be pursuing the same agenda so that we can form fully functioning standing committees to check corruption and abuses of power.

POLITICAL ISSUES

The initial public euphoria from GE14 has somewhat deflated. There are many like-minded Members of Parliament who are working towards systemic reforms. But at the same time, the implosion of UMNO and the defections of MPs to BERSATU are very worrying developments. My office will continue to oppose the acceptance of these defectors and push for greater political transparency and accountability.

NATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES

The Malaysian Economy, in the last three months has not been stellar due to the political changes and revelations of higher-than-expected national debt. It is also true that foreign funds have been leaving our shores, but at the same time, there have been renewed interests of other investors waiting to see wider democratic space in Malaysia. The overall outlook is still undecided but can be greatly improved, if we deliver fully on better governance and democratic reforms in 2019.

The 2019 budget seeks to tap the reserves of Petronas to fund rebates on GST and income tax. If the fall in oil prices continues, it appears that we may have to recalibrate the budget in the coming months. The US-China trade war continues to be an issue and we may have to brace for an emerging market slowdown. The stock markets are underperforming and our primary commodities and manufacturing sector are also not doing very well. That being the case, 2019 will require greater commitment on governance and better planning on budget allocations.

COMMUNITY WORK

On the community front, we have handled 654 cases from 2nd January to December 31st 2018. We have also prepared a full report on the state of schools in Subang and are now gearing up to allocate RM200,000 to carry out repair works on as many schools as we possibly can in 2019. We have asked the Ministry of Education to do their part, failing which, we will kickstart the self fund process with our own community allocation. This means that we will have to scale back on other Project Kecils while we focus on making sure that the schools our children attend are safe and sound.

Lastly, I want to thank YB Ng Sze Han and YB Michelle Ng, my two ADUNS, for doing excellent community engagements, which makes my job as the MP easier. I would also like to thank my officers and interns for producing four important public policy papers in the last six months, and to my volunteers for continuing to support us in serving the community on our weekly service nights. My best wishes to all and once again, a Happy New Year.

Yours Truly, WONG CHEN

PARLIAMENTARY SESSION UPDATES

The July - August 2018 sitting was the first parliamentary sitting after the Pakatan Harapan government won the historic GE14 election victory. It has been a surreal start for everyone at the P104 office, to be part of the coalition government.







The 14th parliamentary sitting started with a grand opening ceremony and speech by the Yang di Pertuan Agong, followed by the swearing-in of Member of Parliaments. Apart from guiding and assisting new Member of Parliaments with their maiden speeches, YB Wong Chen also took on the task of helping Mu Sochua, the exiled Cambodian MP. He helped draw media and ministerial attention to the recent political developments in Cambodia. He believes that as a new government the Pakatan Harapan government owes a duty not only to repair our own democracy but that we go further and promote free and fair elections in the ASEAN region.

With regard to the SST bill, YB Wong Chen delivered a speech on the SST while raising important questions on its implementation. He asserted that SST is not a regressive tax like GST and if implemented well, can reduce cost of living. At the same time, he also asked the Minister of Finance to provide a grace period to give businesses to adapt to the new system. He also recommended a periodic review of the list of goods and services frequently purchased by the B40 group, and ensure that these become eligible for SST exemptions. A total of 5 bills are related to the SST transition:



- 1. GST Bill 2018
- 2. Sales Tax Bill 2018
- 3. Service Tax Bill 2018
- 4. Customs Bill 2018
- 5. Free Zones Bill and 2018



POLICY PAPER HIGHLIGHTS

After Pakatan Harapan's victory in May 2018, our office embarked on a few research and policy papers. These papers are published on YB Wong Chen's website,

www.wongchen.com and can be downloaded under the section "Reports". Here are a very short summary brief on the policies we wrote in the last 6 months.

Asset Declaration

This is an intern paper prepared by former interns Aneeq and Lian May.

This paper is an attempt to assess the current inadequate situation of asset declaration in Malaysia and push for further efforts of improving it. This paper stresses that asset declarations of MPs, spouses and adult children should not only be declared to anti-corruption agencies or the Prime Minister, but fully disclosed to the public for citizens and external auditors. In addition, these declarations need to be audited and verified.





2. Standing Committees for A New Malaysia Standing committees are the most important bodies to safeguard the sovereignty of Parliament from excessive Executive powers. In Norway, where the 12 standing committees cover the remit of every ministry, the outcome of a committee's inquiries tends to determine the outcome of parliamentary legislative debates and policies. Malaysian parliamentary democracy would benefit greatly from the adaptation of tried and tested practices.

The paper draws on the information and knowledge gathered from three case studies: Norway, Great Britain, and Malaysia. Although Malaysia has five standing committees empowered by the Standing Orders of Parliament, these powers and their budget are severely limited. The former two systems are much more comprehensive, contributing greatly to better democracy and legislative governance to their respective countries.

3. The State of Schools in Parliament Subang

This report was conceptualised after YB Wong Chen attended three government school post GE-14 and noticed the state of disrepair in all three schools. He was informed by the schools that they have had issues with securing funding for maintenance and repair works. Prior to the change in government following GE-14, Wong Chen, as an Opposition MP was not allowed to visit government schools in his own constituency. Based on his first visits post GE-14, he then instructed the officers to do a constituency wide survey of all the schools in Parliament Subang and to produce this paper.

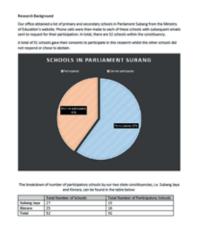
The purpose of this paper is to have a more complete picture of the state of disrepair that both primary and secondary schools face in the Subang Parliamentary constituency. This paper intends to also estimate the total cost needed to rectify these problems. It also discusses other issues faced by these schools, including funding shortage for operating expenditure, an issue that the office came to learn about during the course of the visits.

Wong Chen personally had a lunch meeting and handed the research paper to the Education Minister, YB Maszlee Malik in Parliament. Wong Chen was told that the Ministry will look into the matter.



THE STATE OF SCHOOLS IN PARLIAMENT SUBANG ARSTRACT
The purpose of this paper is to neced the state of disrepair in schools in the subang.
Parliamentary constituency.
This paper intends to also estimate the total cost needed to nexth these problems.

Prepared by The office of 15 Wong Chen





- 4. Fiscal Costs of Smoking in Malaysia
 This report discloses the tax revenues from tobacco
 smoking and provides estimates to the fiscal costs of
 smoking for the year 2018. The conclusions are as follows:
- a. The estimate tax revenues from tobacco smoking are RM4.15 billion for the year 2018.
- b. The estimate of total fiscal costs of tobacco smoking is RM5.60 billion. From this estimate, the direct fiscal costs (public healthcare) portion is RM3.72 billion and indirect costs (other lost fiscal revenues related to lost productivity) portion is RM1.88 billion.
 - c. The total tax revenues are short by RM1.45 billion compared to the total fiscal costs of tobacco smoking.
 d. We note the estimate total economic costs of tobacco smoking to be RM 34.53 billion.
- e. We need to increase excise duty at a rate of 2% per annum for the next 7 years to arrive at an optimal tax rate on cigarettes.

F A

COMMUNITY

For community work, we handled 654 cases, since we opened office on 1st October 2018. In a period of 3 months, we noticed a common pattern regarding the complaints. These complaints are basically of three main categories; (a) citizenship, (b) wrongful termination of employment, and (c) other legal issues.

We also carried out in total 8 Project Kecils.

There are several notable welfare programs that we took part in. For the Jom Shopping Deepavali program held on 28 October 2018, organised by the office of YB Ng Sze Han, ADUN of Kinrara, our office contributed a total RM4,450.00 worth of Giant vouchers.

On 23 December 2018, our office contributed again RM2,000.00 worth of Giant vouchers to the Jom Shopping program organised by the office of YB Ng Sze Han, ADUN of Kinrara.







We also gave out individual welfare grants to constituents who are in dire need of financial assistance. Amongst those include a senior citizen couple whose house got burned down by fire and another senior citizen couple who have been financially burdened with dialysis treatment for the husband. There was also a constituent whose family were riddled with hefty medical bills after her husband was diagnosed with cancer, and her daughter had to guit school and work in order to support her family. We also wrote a support letter for her appeal to the hospital to pay her husband's medical fees by instalment or at a discounted rate due to extreme financial hardships the family has been facing.







In addition, we also gave welfare assistance to the Balai Bomba dan Penyelamat Subang Jaya in our constituency.

Despite the Seafield
Temple being outside
of Parliament Subang,
our office made a
small contribution to
show our
appreciation to the
firemen involved in
the Seafield incident.

In total, our office gave RM2,000.00 worth of Giant vouchers to the fire station.

THE NEW OFFICE

As you might be aware, after the redelineation exercise, the then-Kelana Jaya, now-Subang Parliament's boundary was redrawn to include the state constituency of Kinrara and exclude Seri Setia. For the convenience of both Subang Jaya and Kinrara constituents, we decided to move to a more geographically central location.

PREPARATION WORK

A lot of work and planning went into packing of files, computers, furniture and other assets. To save costs we kept all the old air-cons, lights and reused most of the old furniture too. There was also a lot of cleaning involved. Thank to all of the ex-interns and people who came to help out with the moving!





RENOVATION

The design of the office was provided by our office volunteer, Clement Wong, a famous environmental architect. Our former intern, Seng Kiat, who is now a practising architect with Clement, helped oversee the renovating of the new office. A big thank you to the architects, contractors and everyone who was involved in the renovation!



FINAL TOUCHES

After the renovation was done, we did more cleaning. It was then time to rearrange the furniture and decorate! YB even brought in his old paintings from his school years to decorate his room.















THE OPENING CEREMONY

On 30 September 2018, it was time to reveal our new office. The opening ceremony was graced with the appearance of Her Excellency Gunn Jorid Roset (the Ambassador of Norway to Malaysia), YB Nurul Izzah (MP for Permatang Pauh), YB Ng Sze Han (ADUN for Kinrara) and YB Michelle Ng (ADUN for Subang Jaya). We had the honour to have YB Nurul Izzah officiate the opening of our new office together with YB Wong Chen. In attendance were also some 100 other constituents and our volunteers.

The emcee for the day was our very own Dhinaa. Light refreshments were served along with a performance from a lion dance team. YB Wong Chen then took the VIPs and attendees for a quick tour around the new office.

In the midst of all the food and lion dance performance, a few of our ex-interns and former staff paid the new office a visit as well! You might recognise some of their faces if you have been following YB Wong Chen for a long time.

We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to everyone who were part of the move, renovation and opening ceremony.









INTERNS TESTIMONIAL



One of the most memorable highlights of this internship was the amount of freedom that came with the opportunities given. This ranged from a host of responsibilities, from visiting Parliament and assisting YB Wong Chen with various tasks to carrying out interviews to survey the state of national schools in the Subang constituency. As a result, this overall experience has taught me to approach issues with the equivalent level of trust and dedication given by YB to us in handling such tasks, making us more resilient and responsible for our actions not only for others but for ourselves a quality I believe we all need.

alicia gomez

I have always found myself to be very interested in the world of politics, both in the Malaysian and global landscape. However, joining the P104 office was never to learn about how to be a politician, but rather it was about myself wanting to learn more about policy making. The 3 months of interning at P104 was certainly not short of public policy intuitiveness, the multiple lectures we endured with YB Wong Chen was arguably one of the most tiresome 'class' one could be in – so much knowledge in so little time to ponder upon. And the best part is, you'll never know where the discussion takes you, in one minute it's about poverty, the next minute it's about Artificial Intelligence and as soon as you know it, the discussion ends about 'love'.



Engaging with constituents and realizing the different issues a constituency faces was indeed very eye opening. Not to mention, having the opportunity to go to parliament and meet the different MP's you once saw countlessly on newspapers was certainly fun. To top all this, the fact that I was able to work along with amazing fellow interns as well as the awesome officers was indeed a bonus. I encourage all who are curious to learn new things or understand more about the world, to apply for this internship.

aneeqroslan

Uncertain about my post-graduation plans, I decided to take a shot at this internship partly to discover myself but also to understand the situation of Malaysia better after the 14th General Elections.

Working in an MP's office was an interesting experience for me as I got to do everything from administrative work to speaking to constituents to research. The internship allowed me to challenge myself which in turn, helped build up my skills and learn more about my strengths and weaknesses. The discussion sessions we constantly had with YB Wong Chen often offered me an unbiased opinion on Malaysia Baru and invited me to think about how I could contribute to the development of the country.



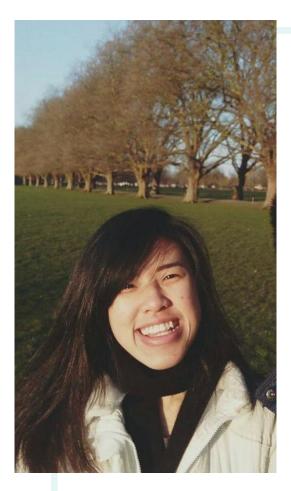
Ultimately, I left YB Wong Chen's office with a lot more knowledge and skills that I had before and feeling much more confident and certain about myself. Looking back, I surely miss the supportive work environment and the friends I made throughout the internship. Having done other internships in the past, I would definitely recommend this internship to anyone who, like me, wants to try something different or just simply wants to learn more about Malaysia and Malaysian politics.

lian may tan



My time interning at Subang MP's office these 5 weeks has been really fruitful. I've enjoyed all the discussions on policies, running around doing urgent errands and being exposed to the political scene in general. I've learned that there is a need for more awareness in Malaysians about the role of MPs, ADUN and to know what is and isn't within their powers. Many at times constituents come request or even demand something to be done for them when it's out of the powers of the MP's office. Yet the people in the office would try their best to assist them, knowing it is not within their job scope and knowing their efforts may likely be futile. That's where I have gained deep respect for the people of this office. About boss I admire his willingness to fight for the causes he believes in, to fight for more independent voices in the Parliament. He's been very willing to share his thoughts and knowledge about so many issues ranging from politics to economics to public policy.

As an ending note I just want to express my gratitude to boss and the people in the office for making this internship a fun and great learning experience.



I had a really enjoyable and memorable time at the P104 office, where the people are wonderful and the work varied. It was an interesting time: in the wake of GE14, constituents were hopeful, often pumped about change, but there was enough scepticism and wariness to go around, too. I feel that I learned a lot about people and politics by talking to Wong Chen, working on projects with the staff, and going to Parliament to see legislation in action.

Needless to say, that made for a diverse range of experiences in and out of the office. My favourite project was researching the issue of parliamentary standing committees, where another intern and I worked on developing an understanding of parliamentary reform that the office would be able to use. Importantly, though, this was complemented by the chance to get involved with visiting schools to interview principals and understand the needs of our local students and teachers.

At the P104 office, I was reminded that you can't craft policy without boots-on-the-ground experience. Along with plenty of guidance from great people, who at the same time trust you to learn and do good work, that experience is really what sets this internship apart!

chang yi ning

The whole experience has been inspiring and eventful with a lot of paper work as well as ground work.

It was a real honour and a privilege to work along side the efficient team of Wong Chen in managing the constituency of Subang Jaya. The whole internship has taught me a lot in the work of a Member of Parliament (MP) and the struggles that the constituents face.

Furthermore, we've always been reminded to improve ourselves every single day by YB Wong Chen whether it be for ourselves or to better serve our nation in the future. All in all, I would highly recommend future interns to join the P104 family as it is an experience that I for one can never forget.

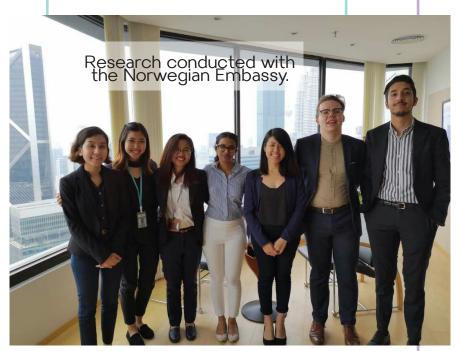


maxjong

PHOTO GALLERY





























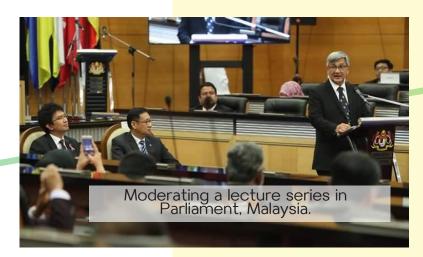








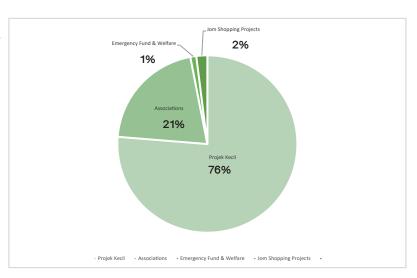






P.104 ALLOCATION SPENDING

office received Our has community allocation from the federal government amounting to RM 900,000.00 for the period of July 2018 till December 2018. Initially, only RM 500,000 was received for the year, but RM 400,000 was topped up in the end of November. The following pie chart depicts spending on welfare to the hardcore poor, associations, pledges, Jom Shopping projects, and infrastructure projects.



Operating Statement for the period ending 31 December 2018 Operating inflow

200,000

operating innow	
Grant Received	
Cash Donation	
•	

54 200,054 **Total operating inflow**

Operating outflow	
Office renovation	78,600
Salaries and allowances	67,782
Rental of building	18,400
EPF, EIS & SOCSO	13,728
Utility and cleaning charges	8,838
Community Outreach	5,104
Furniture & Fittings	4,946
Office Supplies	4,325
Miscellaneous	2,997
Total operating outflow	204,720
Net Shortage for the period	(4,666)

Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2018

Baiance oncet as at or Becember 2010				
7,725				
6,000				
4,064				
17,789				
(3,730)				
(18,725)				
(22,455)				

Net Shortage for the period	(4,666)

WHAT WE CAN DO FOR YOU

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

- US] 1-15
- USJ 16-22
- SS 12-19
- PJS 5-11 & PJS 7 Bandar Sunway
- Kinrara Seksyen 1-7
- Puchong Jaya Timur, Utara, Barat
- 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