

CONSTITUENCY NEWSLETTER

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Issue #16



WONG CHEN
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT OF SUBANG
PUSAT KHIDMAT RAKYAT PARLIMEN SUBANG (P104)



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Foreword from Wong Chen



My dear constituents of Subang,

2020 Year in Review

2020 has been an incredibly challenging year in so many ways and for all of us. Foremost is the Covid-19 pandemic and the endless challenges stemming from it. At the time of writing, the Covid-19 Malaysian official numbers stood at 105,000 infections with 452 deaths. The economy has taken a severe beating from Covid-19. Most employees have suffered pay cuts. Unemployment has doubled from the norm. Revenues of most companies have fallen. Many companies are facing cash flow issues and many may continue to shut down next year. On the social front, more and more Malaysians are suffering from stress, loneliness, anxieties and overall economic hardships. Children are being inadequately educated and face intellectual and developmental scarring.

It is against this backdrop of unprecedented challenges that I now present to you, my report card as your Member of Parliament (MP) for Subang, for the Year 2020.

Let me start by reminding all that MPs essentially have three core duties and they are as follows:

- (a) to legislate laws in Parliament;
- (b) to drive policy making (this is done via Parliamentary Select Committees, events, talks, and general opinions expressed via media); and
- (c) to debate and approve the Federal Budget.

In addition to the three core duties, MPs are also expected to do two other secondary tasks:

- (a) to serve their constituency on local matters and
- (b) to engage the international community.

Lastly, I have a short note on the poor state of finances and challenges of the Pusat Khidmat Rakyat Parlimen Subang.

Legislative Duty

As your MP, I am happy to report that I have a record of 100% attendance rate for the 2020 Parliament sittings, that is 55 out of 55 days of Parliamentary sittings. In total, I debated 18 times which includes delivering speeches, debates and interjections. I gave three key speeches; the reply to the King's speech, the crucial Covid-19 Fund bill and the Federal Budget 2021. I continue to be outspoken, to give the government constructive and alternative policy ideas, not mere criticisms. My mission is to pursue social justice goals, fight corruption and reform Parliament with moderate pragmatic policies. I have consistently been doing this since 2013, without fear or favour during the Barisan Nasional (BN) administration, Pakatan Harapan (PH) administration and now the Perikatan Nasional (PN) administration.

Policy-Making

Policy-making is my strongest attribute and I lead my party, People's Justice Party (PKR) in public policy matters. In Q1 2020, my team and I developed a comprehensive set of social, political and economic reforms for the Leader of the Opposition. When the pandemic struck Malaysia in Q2 2020, I joined the PKR Covid-19 health policy team. In Q3 2020, I completed a nine-part economic lecture series to train my interns and the same is open to the public. In Q4 2020, I refocused our policy interests on Parliamentary reforms, climate change and macroeconomic policies for Budget 2021.

In terms of policy work in Parliamentary committees, I left the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) and was promoted in mid-December 2019 to be the Chairman of the newly formed Special Select Committee for International Relations and Trade. In the months of January and February 2020, my committee managed to conduct three official events, of which two were meetings with ministers and one was a full hearing on Palestine. However, after the change of government in March 2020, all select committees have been suspended from activities. In December 2020, I was reassigned to be a member (representing PKR) of the new Special Select Committee on Finance and Economy. This committee will start operations in 2021 and will monitor both the Finance and Economy ministries. On events and talks to discuss public policy matters, I was a panellist in a total 21 webinars with non-governmental organisations (NGOs), think tanks and embassies, including ASEAN Parliamentarians for Human Rights (APHR), Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Bersih, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute of Singapore, various university student associations, bankers and the European Union (EU) Ambassadors.

On press coverage, I have expressed many public policy and political opinions to both local and international newspapers on politics and economics. For the year 2020, I have been quoted in 209 news articles. I participated in nine live telecast and radio interviews with local and international stations including BFM, Astro Awani, Bernama and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC). I also recorded 33 episodes of Monday Night Chats for 2020, where I explained and discussed a lot of my policy ideas.



Budget 2021 Debate

My office assisted the Leader of the Opposition office in the Budget 2021 debate. I also presented the PH budget position to the Minister of Finance in the first-ever government and opposition pre-budget dialogue. For my party PKR, I lectured and guided our MPs to prepare for their own budget debates. I constructively debated the government on how to improve the Federal Budget of 2021 allocations. I also clashed extensively with the Minister of Finance on the issue of Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) withdrawals, income taxes, Petroleum tax, Real Property Gains Tax (RPGT), excise duties, windfall tax, sales tax, and the Covid-19 Fund amendments.

Diplomacy Updates

For 2020, I had in total 17 diplomatic engagements with ambassadors and officials including the EU, African Union, Norway, Cuba, Sweden, Japan, Singapore, Columbia, Brazil and the United States. I also represented Malaysia for the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA), hosted by Vietnam and done via the internet on two topics, the Economy and the *Joint Communiqué*.

Community and Welfare Updates

On this front, I have to admit that my office has underperformed in attending public events. I have decided to avoid most if not all public events in compliance with directives from Parliament and as a public health policy. Prior to Covid-19, my office managed to clock in seven community events in January and February 2020, but during the Covid-19 period, I made only three additional public appearances with precautionary measures taken. In total, we only attended 10 events for 2020 compared to 2019 where we attended 103 events in total. I intend to continue to avoid or minimize all public events until such time the Covid-19 pandemic is under control.

As for community funding and projects, these were severely disrupted when the PH administration lost power at the end of February 2020. Nevertheless, we managed to disburse out in January and February 2020, a total amount of RM223,000.00 to 42 associations and eight welfare cases. Since March 2020, our community budget has been reduced by 97% from RM3.5 million to a mere RM100,000 a year. While both of my ADUNS continue to have full funding from the Selangor state government, my office, which is a federal government entity, has been completely deprived of community money to spend. Nevertheless, during the Covid-19 period, we were extremely lucky to have received about RM100,000 in private donations from supporters and RM100,000 from the federal government. We used the money to provide vouchers to 235 poor families and 28 associations including Covid-19 frontliners. For the year 2021, we are expected to continue to struggle to provide community aid and projects.

On community complaints and cases, we had a big variety of cases ranging from scams, road traffic, citizenship matters and Joint Management Body (JMB) disputes. My officers and interns handled a total of 480 cases in 2020. This is a drop in cases from the norm of 600 cases a year.

Pusat Khidmat Rakyat Parlimen Subang

Since March 2020, I have been paying all the salaries and office expenses of the P104 office with my own money. When we lost federal power in late February 2020, our office resources to operate as a Member of Parliament was cut to zero. In a sense, this was expected because when the PH government was in charge for 22 months, it did the very same thing to the Opposition, and the BN government used to do the same to the Opposition before 2018. It is extremely unfortunate that Malaysian politics did not evolve and reform from this “zero-sum game” situation since GE14.

In view of this, my office had no choice but to cut back on staffing and also on the number of interns we take in. In 2019, we had three officers and now we operate with only two. We also used to take in more interns; in 2019 we had 18 interns, for 2020 we took in 12. I want to thank my officers Alethea and Ivan, my 2020 interns Ruth, Po Eic, Amir, Aqil, Mikaila, Tuva, Daniel Gan, Hiu Naam, Jia Lin, Arturo, Dhaartshini and Daniel Tee. My office also said goodbye to our much loved officer Paul Mae and hello to Ivan as her replacement in 2020. I want to also thank my loyal base of core volunteers, led by Mr. Leong, and special mentions to Mr. Ho, Phang, Gabriel, James, Wyhow, Bala, Weng Wai, Kevin, the two Melody(s) and the two Michelles. I also want to thank my two ADUNS, YB Ng Sze Han (ADUN for Kinrara) and YB Michelle Ng (ADUN for Subang Jaya), for their continued community services during the pandemic, along with the councillors and all community leaders in Subang.

Conclusion

That’s it for my report card on the *annus horribilis* year of 2020. Stay home, wear your mask, sanitise and keep your community safe. With vaccines and better treatments, next year promises to be better but that can only materialise if we remain fully vigilant.

Wishing everyone a better and happier new year!

Yours sincerely,
Wong Chen

2020 Report Card

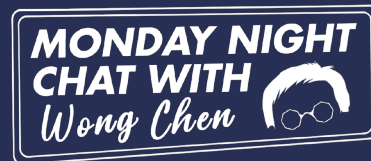


18 Parliamentary debates with 3 key speeches:

- Reply to the King's speech
- Covid-19 Bill
- Federal Budget 2021



- 21 webinars
- 209 News article mentions
- 9 live telecast & radio interviews



- 33 episodes of Monday Night Chat
- 9 episodes of Economic Lecture Series



- 7 community events
- 17 diplomatic engagements



- 480 cases
- 12 interns



"My mission is to pursue social justice goals, fight corruption and reform Parliament with moderate pragmatic policies."





Community & Welfare Updates

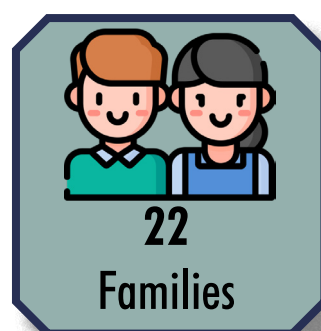
From July to December 2020, the office has managed a total of 196 cases. In six months, the majority of cases are (i) citizenship and immigration, (ii) social welfare assistance, (iii) federal government authorities or agencies, and (iv) legal affairs.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, our office received RM100,000 allocation from the federal government for Covid-19 relief efforts. In the first half of 2020, the office spent RM77,000 to provide personal protective equipment (PPE) to the frontliners as well to the local councillors who were distributing food during the Movement Control Order (MCO). In the second half of 2020, we spent the remaining RM23,000 to six associations in our constituency.

We also had two programmes in the second half of the year. The first was the welfare programme. Two donors reached out to the office to offer financial assistance to the community via the office.

The funds are to be specifically used to help those who suffered financial hardships caused by the pandemic. The donations came in two forms, cash of RM7,500 and 99 Speedmart vouchers worth RM1,800.

We had gotten the names from DUN Kinrara's office and a village leader from Kampung Lembah Kinrara. We interviewed them over the phone to minimise physical contact. Many of them were suffering from chronic diseases and lost their source of income during the pandemic. One of the recipients, Madam Sariamak, was having a difficult time during the pandemic, financially and mentally. Her husband had been bedridden for six years due to an accident. She needed money to buy pampers and medications for the husband. Her son was previously working in a factory but got retrenched during the pandemic. Her daughter stopped working six years ago to take care of her father. She is unable to work as well due to her age and her disfigured hand. We decided to give her RM1000 as we felt that she was in a very dire situation. Sadly, we found out that her husband passed away after we had processed her welfare application. From this programme, we were able to help 22 families in our constituency.



For our second programme, we distributed used desktops and laptops to selected schools. We received 45 units of used desktops and laptops from the Sukha Dhamma School and Aureas Media. With the help of our volunteers, we inspected and reformatted all of them. Out of the 45 units, 37 units were still usable. We reached out to some of the schools in our constituency that required desktop sets. We selected six schools to be the recipients. Each school received a combination of desktops and laptops.

One of the schools that we chose, SMK Seksyen 1 Bandar Kinrara, needed laptops for their students. The school has an Innovation Club that has participated in many competitions, local and international. The club also won many awards and accolades for the school. However, most of the students do not have access to a computer or a laptop. They have to share the unit they have in their club room, which belongs to the club teacher. By donating the units to the school, the students can now directly write proposals and reports for their competitions.

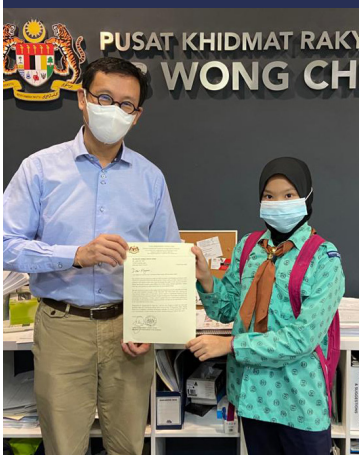
We also distributed three laptops to a non-governmental organisation (NGO), Agape Vision. Agape Vision is a volunteer-run society that reaches out to youths who are at risk. One of their 11 years old child will be attending a learning centre which requires a laptop. It is also the first time the child is attending school. Thus we decided to donate three laptops to Agape Vision as we felt that it will greatly benefit the kids.

The office wishes to extend our deepest gratitude to the donors for their contribution to help the needy during these trying times. With their help, we were able to help and support those who were having a hard time during this pandemic.





"We used the money to provide vouchers to 235 poor families and 28 associations including Covid-19 frontliners."





Interns' Testimonials



Ruth Ng (June - August 2020)

My experience interning at the P104 Office has been nothing short of enlightening. I came to the office with the intention to learn more about the process of policy-making and the role of a Member of Parliament. I left with that and so much more! Everyone in the office, including YB Wong Chen himself, extended patience and guidance in the learning process. The history and public policy lectures, policy paper, meetings with constituents and Q&A sessions with YB Wong Chen are few of the highlights from my internship experience. To top it all off, the office culture is friendly and warm.

Amir Zakhir (July - August 2020)

Before doing my internship at the P104, I had limited knowledge about Malaysian politics and the process by which economic policies are implemented. Therefore, going into the internship, my aim was to learn more about these two topics. During my internship, I was able to expand my knowledge on Malaysian politics by speaking with YB Wong Chen and by also visiting the Malaysian Parliament. Furthermore, I was able to better my understanding of economic policies which allowed me to write a policy paper focusing on carbon taxes in Malaysia. Everyone I met at the office was friendly and always open to answering any questions I had. Overall, it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience.





Quah Po Eic (June - July 2020)

There is a lot going on in parliamentary offices that people do not get to see – hurried appeal letters, constituents with tough demands, and pre-parliamentary reports. I was honoured to be able to experience all of that and more at the P104 office over five weeks during the summer break.

Under the mentorship of YB Wong Chen and his officers, I have been able to learn so much about the issues that an MP has to handle, from fallen trees to financial assistance for low-income families. My interest in federal policymaking brought me to this internship, but the opportunity to engage with constituents kept me going.

Though the internship was challenging at times, the warmth I have experienced in the office – from YB Wong Chen himself, his officers, and fellow interns – inspired me to commit myself to making the P104 office a little better each day. It was absolutely amazing interning here, and I cannot thank everyone involved in my internship enough for that.

Aqil Radzi (June - September 2020)

Throughout my time at YB Wong Chen's office, I never stopped learning. I had such an unforgettable experience where I got to cultivate critical insight and meaningful connections. I am enthusiastic about public policy, so it was extremely fulfilling to have served the Honourable Member of Parliament and his outstanding officers. I further developed an understanding of government affairs, Parliamentary Select Committees, the Civil Service, the fundamentals and the history of economics, and mainly society. I got to learn about legislation matters such as citizenship cases, employment conflict, social welfare, and especially serving constituents. I witnessed a remarkable public servant make full use of taxpayers money and his privilege for the greater good of the people. A true representative of the rakyat with respectable principles. I am not a constituent of Subang, but I am certain that if you are, your MP does his very best to serve his nation.



Arturo González (August - September 2020)



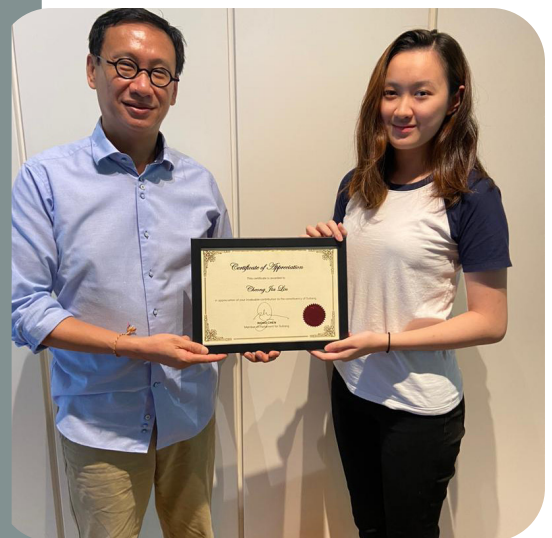
As a Colombian student in International relations, I can testify of my experience interning among Wong Chen's parliamentary constituency as academically challenging, intellectually enriching, and personally fruitful and rewarding.

This was facilitated undoubtedly by a professional and friendly environment, where the urgency for delivering qualitative work was always a priority. Moreover, the interest in sharing political, historical, and cultural information. Let me stress on how interesting, useful and unique this interning experience has proven to be, for my future professional career as well as for my own personal growth.

For this and for many other reasons, I remain extremely grateful for that opportunity, and without a doubt would recommend it to anyone from any academic background.

Cheong Jia Lin (September - October 2020)

P104 has been a real eye-opening experience. This internship program has taught me a lot, both professionally and personally. At P104, I had the opportunity to gain valuable hands-on experience and a better understanding in dealing with community issues whilst assisting both of the officers. YB Wong Chen is truly nurturing and taught me a lot about politics, public policy and controversial national issues by demonstrating his effective approach into these issues. As an intern, my thoughts and contributions are valued every day as I worked alongside the incredible and respectful officers. This gave me an environment to blossom and gained many insights. The time I have spent in the P104 office has been tremendously enriching and valuable, whether it be professional development or leadership qualities, which I will carry over into my future endeavours!





*“Thank you
to my officers,
interns,
volunteers, councillors
and the two ADUNS.”*



Financial Statements & Allocation Spendings

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

P104 Statement as at 31st December 2020

Balance Sheet

Assets	RM
Cash and bank balance	251,702
	<hr/> 251,702
Liability	
Loan from Wong Chen	120,716
	<hr/>
Net Assets	130,987
	<hr/>
Net excess to be carried forward	130,987
	<hr/>

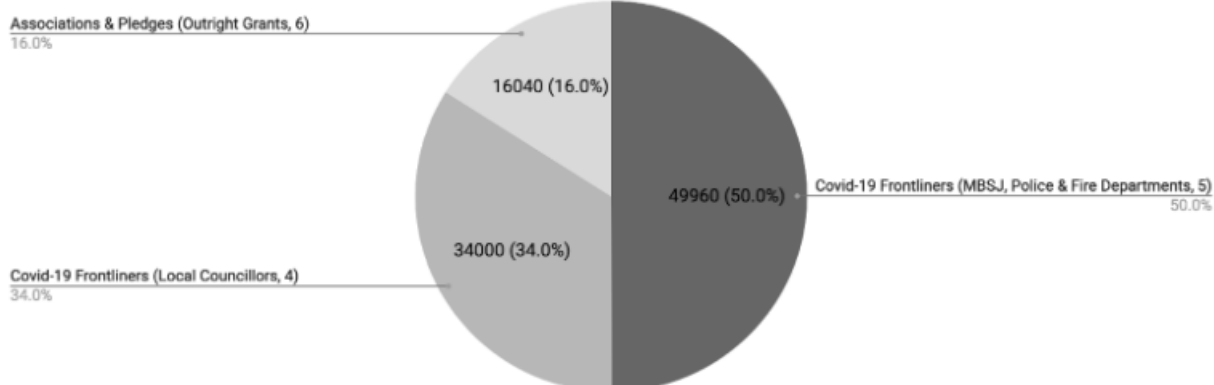
Income Statement (July - December 2020)

Income	
State Allocation	16,667
Interest	310
	<hr/> 16,977
Less: Expenses	
Salaries, Allowances & Bonus	57,573
EPF, SOCSO & EIS	7,046
Rental of premise	14,000
Utilities	8,512
General expenses	3,242
Office maintenance	1,338
Office supplies	602
Bank charges	407
	<hr/> 92,718
Net outflow for the period	(75,742)
	<hr/>

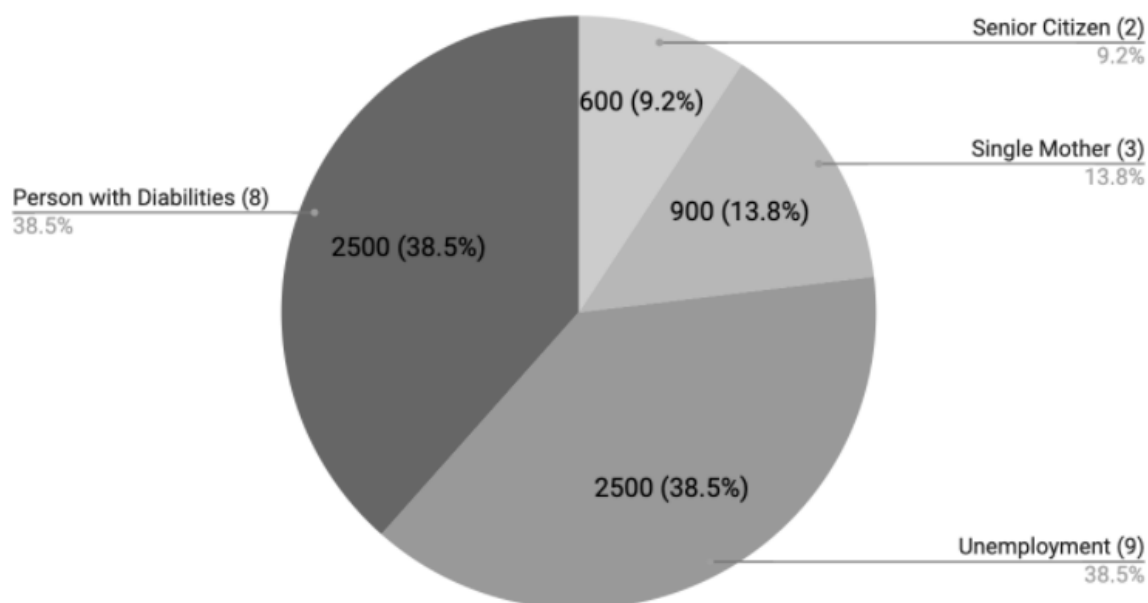
Note: Following the Sheraton Move which led to the downfall of the Pakatan Harapan government in late February 2020, all of our office and community allocations have been suspended. Since then, our office survives on a nominal Selangor state government grant of approximately RM16,667.00 for the month September to December 2020. The shortfall in income is covered by YB Wong Chen personally and his advances to the office for the year 2020 was RM120,716.00.

Opposition Allocation from Federal Government

In March 2020, P104 Subang has received a total of RM100,000.00 for Covid-19 for Covid-19 relief from the federal government, of which RM49,960.00 (50%) was for frontliners such as the local council, police and fire departments to purchase personal protective equipments, RM34,000.00 (34%) was for the local councillors to organise food aid programs, and RM16,040 (16%) was for general association and pledges.

Allocation Spent as at 31st December 2020**Donation Allocation from Private Donor**

In July 2020, P104 Subang has received a total of RM7,500 in donation from a private donor. 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 Spent as at 31st December 2020

What We Can Do For You

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

USJ 1 - 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; 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 card and issue letter of enquiries
- Follow up with Jabatan Pendaftaran Negara (JPN) and Immigration Department



Intern at P104 Subang!
Apply at <http://bit.ly/P104Subang-InternshipApplication>



Wong Chen

**Member of Parliament for Subang
Constituency Newsletter**

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