



Aminuddin (left) posing with representatives from all frontliners involved in the fight against Covid-19 in the state during the last Merdeka Day celebration.

Putting the rakyat's well-being first

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each and involved the construction, maintenance, and repair works of roads, community halls and other public facilities.

Aminuddin's administration also allocated RM100,000 to the Federal Agricultural Marketing Authority (Fama) to allow it to buy greens and fruits from growers in the state affected by the movement control order.

Through the initiative, Fama helped the farmers market these produce as many retail outlets had been forced to shut down due to the MCO.

Before that, some farmers were unable to sell their produce.

To help producers who were unable to sell their high-end properties, Aminuddin's administration had in June come up with a new policy allowing expatriates to buy landed properties worth more than RM1mil in the state.

Foreigners and foreign companies were also allowed to buy landed strata properties worth more than RM1mil and strata units worth more than RM600,000.

Previously, foreigners were only allowed to buy dwellings worth more than RM2mil. To help communities further with their activities, all 433 Village Community Management Councils (MPKK) in the state were given RM3,000 which was over and above the RM2,000 given for the year.

Apart from organising programmes, the additional funds could also be used to pay utility bills or other maintenance works at their community halls.

Addressing unemployment issue

To address the issue of unemployment, the state government has organised several job fairs in recent months.

It has also collaborated with JobsMalaysia to provide job matching online and organised Karnival Kerjaya (Jobfair) where applicants are also helped with preparing good resumes.

The number of unemployed in the state in the first quarter of 2020 was 16,800 or 3.3% and this increased to 18,200 or 3.6% in the second. This was, however, still lower than the national unemployment rate of 5.1%.



Aminuddin handing over cash aid to old folk at a centre in Seremban that were affected by the Covid-19 outbreak.

In the first nine months of 2020, 104 employees were forced to lay-off their work due to the adverse effects of Covid-19.

A total of 1,095 workers lost their jobs out of which 925 were locals.

The state government through the Manpower Department, he said, had closely monitored the situation and made sure the workers received their termination benefits.

In total, some RM30.7mil was paid out by the employers to those affected.

Aminuddin's team has also decided to lead by example by contributing 10% of their salary to the state's Disaster Trust Account as its commitment to fight Covid-19.

The Mentri Besar and state executive council members will do this beginning this month.

"We will do this for six months to show that we are in this fight together," he said.

Aminuddin said there were also plans to rejuvenate the tourism sectors which was one of the state's top revenue earners.

The food, beverage and accommodation sectors, travel agency services, transportation, meetings, incentives, conventions and

exhibitions (MICE) venues and recreation have been badly impacted following the closure of national borders.

"To minimise the impact on the state economy, the state government in collaboration with the state Tourism Board and other agencies will increase efforts to increase tourist arrivals.

"This will be done by improvising the promotion of local products such as beach tourism, eco-tourism and cultural and heritage tourism," he said.

Aminuddin's administration had also launched "Pantai Indah, Bebas Sampah" (Beautiful Beach, Garbage Free) campaign at Pantai Saujana in Port Dickson last July after the beaches were re-opened to the public after the MCO was eased for the recovery period.

The Port Dickson Municipal Council had also put up loudspeakers along several stretches of beach to remind the people to keep them clean.

"We will also go to the ground to personally see how prepared is the industry to welcome tourists back after months of

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being affected by Covid-19.

"We will look at product updates, awareness and the tourism events for the year," he said, adding that the tourism authorities have also promoted the industry via social media such as Facebook and Instagram.

Aminuddin said his administration has also set aside RM1.42mil to promote and organise 23 tourism-related activities and programmes to be held this year.

Eight of these activities will be held in Port Dickson.

There are also plans to build a 13km beach train service under the Port Dickson Special Coastal Area Draft Plan to further develop tourism in the resort town.

These are among efforts to transform the resort town into an International Tourism City in the next decade.

The proposed plan, to be carried out in stages and covering a 10,434ha area, will also see the redevelopment of 11 popular beach stretches in Port Dickson.

The authorities are also revisiting an earlier proposal to build a duty-free complex which was mooted more than a decade ago.

The move is also to strengthen its position as MICE, wellness, eco-tourism, cultural and heritage and commercial zone.

There is also a proposed river cruise from Sungai Linggi to Pengkalan Kempas, construction of a bikers cafe, a floating restaurant and a fisherman's bay and upgrading Dataran Teluk Kemang and Persiaran Pahlawan near the army camps.