

SPEECH BY
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PRESIDENT
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF SEBERANG PERAI
GRAND OPENING OF
JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL NIBONG TEBAL
21 JULY 2016 (THURSDAY), 7.30 PM

First and foremost, I would like to thank Junior Chamber International Nibong Tebal for inviting me to be the guest of honor for the opening of their Secretariat. Congratulations to JCI Nibong Tebal on this joyous and memorable occasion!

I was informed that Junior Chamber International (JCI) is a non-profit organization which is comprised of young active citizens aged between 18 to 40 years old who are committed to creating an impact in their communities. JCI has been established over 100 years ago and there are currently more than 5000 Local Organizations worldwide.

Young people is the asset of a city. There is a critical need to involve young people in decision making that also will affect them. We just cannot speak about sustainable development without the involvement of them. Let us put our ideas forward together and create a better future for our generation and future. Cities now are talking about SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals). There are 17 Goals in SDGs and I will like to highlight that local governments is the policy makers, catalysts of change and the level of government best placed to link the global goals with local communities as include under SDGs 11 "Make cities and humans settlements, inclusive,

safe, resilient and sustainable". We will need to ensure that citizens are engaged in the decisions that affect their future.

As a local government, we have own challenges and the biggest challenge for us are on Solid Waste Management (SWM) and segregation at source. We have allocated 9 million for tipping fees, transfer station 4.2 million and on petrol & diesel around 2.58 million to handle only on SWM excluding enrolment of my staff. For me, it will be more useful if we could spent this amount of money to upgrade our infrastructure, public spaces or other facilities that benefits the public and communities, if the community can reduce the waste generated and implement segregation at source and 4R.

For your information, we have many public spaces like Bukit DO, Taman Tunku, Taman Ampang Jajar and others. We would like to invite the communities to create some activity or program on the public spaces. Let's make these public spaces alive. A success of a public space can be judged if there is a lot of activities being done there not only depending on us but also the community itself. If you have any ideas on the programs in this public spaces, you may contact Mr. Shaqhrony, 016-4759623.

Besides, MPSP has plan many recreational programs to the communities such as aerobics. Aerobics is on the first week Sunday of the month in Bandar Sunway during our Car Free Morning Program, second week of Sunday of the month is at Taman Tugu, Mak Mandin and third week of the month in Taman Berjaya, Nibong Tebal. We are planning to organize Green Ride before end of the year maybe will be on October 2016. We hope all these program will be supported by all citizens.

The big event coming up next month is the Butterworth Fringe Festival from

13 to 14 August 2016. This is one of our effort to make city vibrant with arts & culture and heritage instead to give Butterworth a new soul. Art, heritage & culture and heritage is the connection to the past stories.

MPSP together with Think City to improve Butterworth. We have done studies for examples cultural mapping Jalan Jeti Lama and Dewan Ria engagement Program to understand the local needs of the area. On 2016, programs that have being done there such as Butterworth Discovery Walk (Feb 2016), Chap Go Meh (Mac 2016), Free Market Masjid Abdul Kadir (Mac 2016), Tempatan Feast (Padang Haji Ahmad Badawi) where we can see a lots of local brands for youngsters being sold during the feast (April 2016) and Seberang Perai Story Lectures (Jun 2016). For upcoming events are Sambutan Hari Raya Butterworth Baru on 3 Sept 2016, Bagan Cyling Jamboree (27 Sept 2016), Rootz Feast (27 & 28 August 2016) and Farmest Market (November 2016) . You may visit Butterworth's Guide page or you may call Cik Normaira Binti Abdul Rahman 019-4521935 for more info on Butterworth programs or events.

Bukit Mertajam area is another one area that has its own stories. MPSP has signed MOU with Yokohama City Council, Yokohama City University, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to cooperate together to also give a new soul to Bukit Mertajam. Yokohama has visited MPSP four times to discuss details on the project and we also have sent four officers to Yokohama, Japan to learn and exchange ideas from 16th May 2016 to 3rd June 2016. We hope we could see something new happen next year in 2017 and 2018.

JCI Nibong Tebal, being one of the Local Organizations, was duly

registered under the Youth Societies and Youth Development Act 2007 back in December, 2015. Despite it being so newly established, JCI currently has more than 50 members, and I am sure that this figure will continue to grow.

Since their establishment, JCI Nibong Tebal has successfully organized a few projects and programmes that have benefited our community. JCI Nibong Tebal is committed in creating a positive change in the community and JCI Nibong Tebal believes that service to humanity is the best work of life. They have worked together to organize charity programmes to collect donations for those who are less fortunate.

JCI Nibong Tebal's tagline – *Where Talent Converges* – speaks a loud volume. The mission is simple and straightforward - they want to provide development opportunities that empower young people to create positive change. JCI Nibong Tebal is a platform for the young active and talented citizens to develop skills and knowledge to make informed decisions. Therefore, JCI Nibong Tebal has tirelessly organized numerous self-development talks and business seminars for the members, with the hope that they can embrace new ideas and diversity to make a difference in their lives and their community. This is in line with JCI's Vision – to be the leading global network of young active citizens.

MPSP has also received the proposal from JCI for your upcoming project of JCI Nibong Tebal - the Eco Tour. We are considering and looking at this proposal and I was informed that this project is also aligned with the goals

of United Nation - to provide education with quality, to encourage decent work and economic growth, to create sustainable cities and community, and to preserve life both on and below water. We want to send a loud message to everyone that preserving the eco-system is not only important for the economy but it is vital to create a safe and healthy living environment for all. Nibong Tebal is a unique little town that has so much to offer. The Eco Tour which aims to promote local tourism is packed with activities such as the Romantic Firefly, Octopus Catching, Seafood Auction Market, Floating Fish Farm and Steel Art Studio, among others, will surely promote all the hidden gems in our Nibong Tebal town. As tourism peaks, hopefully the economy will flourish too. This again shows that we can work together to create an impact in our community when the young active citizens work together.

Ladies and gentlemen, I shall keep my speech short and end here by wishing JCI Nibong Tebal all the very best in every project and undertaking and come together to make our city alive. Now, I am glad to declare the official opening of Junior Chamber International, Nibong Tebal. Once again, congratulations.

Thank you.

