



City News

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KUALA LUMPUR CITY HALL



IBF HEADQUARTERS IN KUALA LUMPUR?

The International Badminton Federation (IBF) may find a new home in Kuala Lumpur, if the more than 100 years old Federation decides to move to a more affordable location in Asia.

If the move materializes, Kuala Lumpur would be very interested in making a bid for the IBF to be headquartered here when the opportunity arises, since badminton has a large following in Malaysia and has also been a champion like Indonesia and China in the international tournaments such as the Thomas Cup.

This was stated by the Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mohamad Shaid Bin Mohd Taufek in an interview with City News, returning from Jakarta after addressing the Annual General Meeting of the IBF on 9 May 2004 attended by 144 members of the Federation.

He was in Jakarta in his capacity as Mayor of Kuala Lumpur and invited the Federation members to Kuala Lumpur for the World Seniors Badminton Championships. Datuk Mohamad Shaid is the patron of the Kuala Lumpur Badminton Association. The IBF has been headquartered in Cheltenham, United Kingdom since its inception more than 100 years ago and has 153 members from all over the world.



Mayor of Kuala Lumpur, Datuk Mohamad Shaid bin Mohd. Taufek being welcomed by Her Excellency Madam Megawati Soekarno Putri at the Istana Negara, Jakarta.



The Malaysians who won the Thomas Cup at Preston in 1949 (from left to right) Law Teik Hock, Ong Poh Lim, Wong Peng Soon, Lim Kee Fong, Chan Kon Leong, Yeoh Teck Chye, Teoh Seng Khoon and Ooi Teck Hock. - Photo by courtesy of BAM

This was the first time in the history of the IBF where its Annual General Meeting was officiated in a palace by the President of a country. Her Excellency, Megawati Soekarno Putri officially declared open the meeting held at the Hilton Hotel, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Kuala Lumpur has been awarded the honour of hosting the World Seniors Badminton Championships from 30 November - 5 December 2004.

More than 1000 international participants are expected to take part in the biggest tournament ever which is divided into six categories:

The age groups are as follows:

- a) 35 - 40 years
- b) 40 - 45 years

- c) 45 - 50 years
- d) 50 - 55 years
- e) 55 - 60 years
- f) 60 ++ years



Should the bidding by Kuala Lumpur succeed it would be a great achievement which would fulfill Kuala Lumpur Mayor's aspiration to make Kuala Lumpur the sports city in the region and a preferred sports tourism destination for tourists.

The Mayor's hope is that the fortunes of Malaysian badminton will take a positive turn and promote the game among the young and give badminton a big boost. Malaya won the Thomas Cup in 1949, 1952, 1955 (before independence) in 1967 and 1992. Indonesia won the cup 13 times while China four.



FLASHBACK - The Thomas Cup comes to Malaya in 1949.- Photo by courtesy of BAM



From the Mayor's Desk

TOWARDS GREATER EFFICIENCY

The last two months has seen three important training programs, seminars and workshops conducted to infuse and inculcate in staff of Kuala Lumpur City Hall, commitment, integrity, efficiency and effective delivery of services to the stakeholders and citizens living in the city.

A workshop was conducted on 15 – 17 April 2004 in Port Dickson to introduce the 'Solution Kluang' to resolve problems in a collective one stop integrated approach.

On 13 May 2004, a workshop was held for Enforcement Department personnel to carry out their functions in an honest, professional and dedicated manner and to be humble in their dealings with the public.

Recently, on 14 June 2004, a seminar on "Governance in the Public Sector: Enhancing Efficiency in Service Delivery" was conducted by an external training vendor to carry out strategic planning to improve delivery systems, upgrade integrity, accountability and transparency among senior City Hall officials.

These and many other courses and training programmes are a regular feature in City Hall's Training Division and Human Resource Department. The continuous and continuing education programmes are vital to upgrade and introduce staff to new ideas and new emerging theories and concepts in administration and management.

The Japanese believe in the concept of KAIZEN or continuous refinement to improve on productivity, product and service. The two University of California, Berkeley alumni, Ikujiro Nonaka and Hirotaka Takeuchi (who were also closely related academically with Harvard and Stanford) in their classic dissertation or 'The Knowledge Creating Company' give numerous examples based on case studies on how to create knowledge with specific references to successful companies in Japan.

Every management guru has emphasized on human resource development and training. In this millennium, staff have to reengineer, reinvent, innovate and accept change to face the challenges in managing and administrating the City. Those who do not change and adjust to the changing environment and demands of the consumer will remain stagnant and fossilized in their own world "like a frog under the coconut shell".

In this regard, in the Budget 2004, City Hall allocated 2.6% of the Budget or RM15,143,983 for Training and Emplacement. Around RM4.1 million was put aside for scholarships, local and overseas training. Money spent on training will decide the future quality of manpower in City Hall Management. The development of a knowledge creating entity such as City Hall is very important in the ensuing years.

It is hoped that with huge sums of money spent on training, staff particularly the younger ones, will make full use of the opportunities to develop and equip themselves with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Alongside these skills and knowledge, I hope they will also endeavour to master the English language and become global players towards City Hall's vision of making Kuala Lumpur a "World Class City" with World Class Management. We must think global and act global.

IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY

Local Authorities, particularly a premier and big Municipality like Kuala Lumpur City Hall must strive to provide efficient, effective and fast service to stakeholders and consumers in the city since city dwellers demand a lot from KL City Hall.

Statistics compiled from reports most often reveal dissatisfaction of the public towards slow, tardy and inefficient services. This ultimately results in public disaffection and at times is evidenced by the number of complaints registered at the Public Complaints Bureau.

Stating this at the Welcoming Address of a seminar on "Governance in the Public Sector – Enhancing Efficiency in Service Delivery", Datuk Halijah Othman, Deputy Director General (Administration) said that it was incumbent upon organizations and agencies that deal with the public daily, to provide the best of service to the general public.

Datuk Halijah said that there were some government agencies considered as "critical agencies" that dealt with the public more often and regularly for approval of licences, permits, passports, identity cards, visa and travel documents, settling of taxes and assessment, customs and excise clearance of import/export of goods and other services.

Such agencies are constantly in the "public eye" and any perceived deficiency or lack of efforts and fast services earn the wrath and anger of the public.

These inefficiencies are reported to the Public Complaints Bureau for intervention. The mass media too highlight these weaknesses and problems thus impinging on the credibility, reputation and image of the organization in a negative manner.

"In this regard, training is a vital element to enrich the staff and equip them with the knowledge and skills to carry out their tasks efficiently in an accountable and transparent manner", she said. City Hall staff have to reinvent, reengineer and restructure themselves to face the challenges in the millennium, social and economic environment.

Datuk Halijah stated that in its efforts to improve the professionalism, proficiency and capability of its officers, City Hall had allocated RM4.1 million for training and scholarships.

In the Budget 2004, 2.6% or RM15.143 million has been allotted for Training and Emplacement. She called upon the senior officers to upgrade their services and provide value added service to the public and other beneficiaries of the City's services.

The half-day programme, which was conducted by BDO Governance Advisory and PRIMA Consulting Malaysia was attended by 30 senior officers from KL City Hall.

TRAFFIC DIVERSION

Effective 11 June 2004 until February 2005, the lanes for traffic from the Kampung Pandan Roundabout towards Jalan Ampang will be reduced to two lanes from the current three.

The eight month diversion will see Bukit Bintang bound traffic, diverted into Jalan Selatan, Jalan Melur, Jalan Utara and Jalan Delima which connect to Jalan Bukit Bintang. Traffic flow from the opposite direction (Jalan Ampang to the Kampung Pandan Roundabout) will not be affected.

KNOW YOUR MINISTER

**-TAN SRI DATO' SERI UTAMA HAJI MOHD ISA BIN DATO' HAJI ABDUL SAMAD
(SPNS;PSM;DSNS;PMC)**



Tan Sri Haji Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Haji Abdul Samad, stressing a point. - Photo KL City News

On 14 November 1949, a Malay male child was born in Sungai Udang, Melaka destined to be the Menteri Besar of Negeri Sembilan in 1982, 33 years after his birth and subsequently the Minister of Federal Territories on 27 March 2004.

This child was no less than the well known and witty YB Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mohd Isa Bin Dato' Hj Abdul Samad, now 54 years old who started his career as a teacher in 1973, at the Sekolah Dato' Abdul Razak, Seremban after graduating from University of Malaya in 1969/72 in Malay studies and a Diploma in Education.

Tan Sri Hj Mohd Isa, has wide experience in politics and administration having been in active politics since 1978 as a State Assemblyman (EXCO) after winning the state seat of Linggi replacing his late father, Dato' Haji Abdul Samad Said.

In 1982, he was re-elected in the same constituency and was appointed Menteri Besar – a post which he held for 22 years until the 2004 general elections. With his popularity, it was not surprising that he represented the Linggi State seat continuously for six terms. He won the election without contest for two terms in 1982 and 1986. He is currently

Member of Parliament for Jempul, Negeri Sembilan.

Tan Sri Isa as he is popularly known, had his primary education at the Sekolah Rendah Bagan Pinang, Port Dickson (Year 1-Year 4) 1956 – 1959. Year 5 and 6 (1959/60) saw him continuing his primary education at Sekolah Rendah Si-Rusa Garrison, Port Dickson. From 1962 until 1964 he had his secondary education at the Government English School Port Dickson (Form 1 – 3) and subsequently completing his Form 5 (1965/68) at the Sekolah Menengah Alam Shah, Cheras, Kuala Lumpur.

Amongst others, Tan Sri Isa is the President of the Negeri Sembilan Football Association since 1982 and President of the Malaysia Amateur Boxing Federation (MABF) since 1995.

Tan Sri Isa (a Scorpio star) is married to Puan Sri Hajah Hazidah Tumim and they are blessed with four children (a son and three daughters). The eldest is 26 years old while the youngest, 15.

As Busy As A Bee

From day one, as soon as he sat on the chair as Minister of Federal Territories, YB Tan Sri Haji Mohd Isa Bin Dato' Hj Abdul Samad has been very active attending briefing sessions from various government, quasi - government, non-government and political parties. Even the opposition parties had a meeting with the Minister. Tan Sri Haji Mohd Isa assumed office on 27 March 2004.

Out of the 42 plus meetings, closing and opening ceremonies, prize giving, presentations, launchings, site visits and other ceremonies required of a Minister, Tan Sri Hj Mohd Isa has also to attend to other important government official meetings at the Federal Territories of Putrajaya and Labuan besides Kuala Lumpur. The above 42 plus meetings were only from 12 April – 14 June 2004.

Saturdays and Sundays are not spared. At times,



Tan Sri Haji Mohd. Isa bin Dato' Haji Abdul at a function in Sentul Raya, Jalan Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur - Photo KL City News

the Minister has to be present at four or five places, including his Parliamentary Constituency in Jempul, Negeri Sembilan. How much time does the family get to see the “Khalifah” in the family? A great sacrifice indeed!

Being a Minister in the new millennium is not easy – it is indeed a demanding job only for the tough and dedicated – A gruelling 24 hour job indeed!