

FEB 12 CELEBRATION

## Selangor govt to hold 'virtual CNY open house'

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**S**ADDENED by the inability to gather physically for Chinese New Year celebration, the Selangor government has decided to hold its annual open house virtually this year.

State executive council (exco) member Datuk Teng Chang Khim said the virtual celebration would take place on Feb 12 at 9pm, which is the first day of the Chinese New Year.

"Traditionally, the Chinese New Year celebration is one of the biggest festivities around the world, including in our country, together with Aidilfitri, Deepavali and Christmas celebrations.

"We are disheartened to have been unable to hold a physical Chinese New Year open house

this year. However, we believe it is a sacrifice for the community's sake.

"We welcome members of the public to come and join the first ever virtual Chinese New Year celebration by tuning in to Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari's Facebook page, at @amirudinbinshari.

"We have lined up several entertainment segments from talk shows to live traditional music performance, in collaboration with professional and world-class performers.

"We believe by celebrating virtually this year, it will have its own advantages because everybody, regardless of race and religion, can join the celebration. They can watch the live performances from the comfort of their homes," Teng told the press yesterday.

Teng is state exco member for



A shopper admiring Chinese New Year themed decorations at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur.  
BERNAMA PIC

the Investment Standing Committee, Industry and Commerce and Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) portfolio.

He said preparations for the virtual celebration cost about RM414,000.

He said the state government had come up with the celebration's theme of a "New Year, New Hope".

"After looking back at what we have gone through together last year, with having to face Covid-19, and staying at home for almost a year... we believe this is the best theme that represents it as with a new year, comes new hope."

He urged for Selangor folk to strictly comply with the standard operating procedures (SOP) at all times.

"It is worrying to see the number of cases spike in the last two weeks, as well as the number of people fined for not following the rules. Please take care of yourself and your families."

He said the state government had launched an online campaign called "Chinese New Year Wish and Win", which aimed to pick the three best Chinese New Year wishes.

"This is the first time that the state government is holding a

mass virtual festivity celebration and we want to make the most of it. The online campaign will run from Jan 24 until Feb 3. We have been receiving hundreds of entries.

"Three winners will be picked and each are entitled to win RM168 worth of *ang pao*. The amount was chosen because of its significant meaning (in the Mandarin language), which means 'leading a prosperous life'."

The virtual celebration will showcase 12 entertainment performances, with 68 minutes of live broadcast on the Facebook platform.