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is to choose a low-cost flat in their area and conduct programs there. With the budget allocated by MPSJ specially for this program we hope we are able to bring some positive changes to the living conditions for these flat dwellers and also to empower them to become better citizens. There are a few programs and projects in the pipeline. For example, recently we had organised a workshop for ketupat weaving a few days before Hari Raya headed by one of the resident who had recently won a grand prize in a ketupat weaving competition during Tun M's launching of the Dasar Komuniti Negara in Puchong. More than 40 residents participated and prior to that, Baskin MPSJ had managed to get an order of 200 ketupat from as far as Kuala Langat and Sepang. Cash from the sales of these ketupats were distributed among the ladies who participated in the workshop. The most recent project which I am very excited about is the 100 Murals project which will be announced soon. We are liaising with MPSJ and NGO's who are interested to work with JKP 4 to rejuvenate Angsana low-cost flats by means of exciting and educational mural paintings. I am also pleased that after almost two and a half years, KRT Pangsapuri Angsana was officially formed recently and JKP 4 is looking forward to work together with the recently formed committee.

5. Tell us a bit about yourself. What do you do for a living? Tell us a little bit about your family.

I was born 49 years ago in University Hospital PJ where my mom worked ever since she was still single. My father passed away when I was 12 years old. I am the eldest of 3 siblings. I am married with 3 children; 2 daughters (16 years and 11 years old) and a 14 year old son. My wife is currently a dentist in Shah Alam. Apart from being the MPSJ Councillor, I am also a practising architect in USJ 1 since 2001. In addition, I am also currently the State Secretary for Parti Amanah Negara (AMANAH) Negeri Selangor and also the Assistant Secretary for Pakatan Harapan (PH) Negeri Selangor. I was also previously the Assistant Secretary for Parti Amanah Negara (AMANAH) Nasional but I recently resigned due to my heavy commitment here in MPSJ and Selangor.

6. As an architect, do you see the potential to improve the living conditions of the areas under your care? Share with us some insights.

I do see the potential but it is very limited due to budget constraints and several other factors. For instance, I may have ideas on how to create and beautify the communal spaces within the Angsana low-cost flats. Ideally it may work but practically it needs commitment and cooperation amongst the residents as well as the budget to do it. Collaboration with NGO's is an option but as long as the mindset of the residents is not change, the whole idea may be redundant.

Perhaps, a visit to established and well-maintained low-cost flats within Malaysia may open the eyes of the residents so that they will have a clearer picture of what Angsana can be in the future. A few years ago I was involved in the design of a public library using containers in Kg Lindungan, PJS 6 where I spent most of my childhood. In a way it was like a token for me to give back to the community. It was quite a success in a sense that the community was also involved in part of the design process. It would be nice to do it here in Zone 4 someday, I hope.

In certain cases, I have also used my experience as an architect to provide technical advise to residents on the Uniform Building By-law (UBBL) in relation to their building plan submission. I was also approached by Adun's office and other parties for advise on matters or complaints related to building plan submission and planning permission.

7. If you suddenly had a windfall of RM1mil, what would you use it for in the community? Tell us why too.

RM1mil is a large sum of money indeed. Definitely, I would use it in Angsana low-cost flats. Firstly, I would use it to change all the lifts here because they are more than 15 years old. The lives of the residents here have been mostly affected with deteriorated lifts. I have seen cases where the elderly and disabled people had to be carried up and down the staircases due to the faulty lifts. Secondly, the external walls of these flats need a fresh coat of paint. With vibrant and lively colours, it is hoped that the fresh coat of paint will bring cheer to the residents here in Angsana. Any balance amount will be distributed based on the need of each area in Zone 4.

8. What are your plans for the remaining time as councillor during this term?

Currently MPSJ is in collaboration with various agencies such as MBI, LUAS, JPS, PTD and KDEB in pursuing the SJ Riverfront project along the Klang River which will be carried out in phases. The first phase of this project shall involve the area along Angsana low-cost flats and will take a period of 2 years from now till 2020. As part of the project, I will be involved in many engagements and townhall meetings with Agsana residents to explain and elaborate to them the benefits of this project as a whole to their community. The kick-off meeting was held in April this year followed by a technical meeting in May. The first public event will be held during JKP 4 Hari Raya Open House on 7th July 2019 where an exhibition of the SJ Riverfront project shall be on display for residents to view. In addition, MPSJ will educate and train a group of residents from Angsana as 'River Rangers' where they will be given training on how to protect the river and make it sustainable for the next generation in line with the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

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YES! YOU ARE OVERWATERING YOUR PLANTS!

by Christopher Teh Boon Sung, Fac. of Agriculture, Uni. Putra Malaysia, Serdang
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How much water do our plants need? This, of course, depends on the type of plant. Air plants (Tillandsias) and cactus, for instance, require much less water than most, but generally, plants require about 5 liters of water per square meter ground area per day (or about half a liter of water per day for a pot size 30 centimeters wide). But on very hot and prolonged dry days, this amount of water can double that of normal.

Do not underestimate the importance of plant watering. Unfortunately, some gardening videos on the internet give out the wrong information. One video, for instance, teach that plants need a sort of extreme wet-and-dry cycle, where plants are only watered once the soil is very dry, and watering should be one that involves flooding the soil – until the water can be seen dripping, like fast flowing streams, out from the bottom of the pot.

This is wet-and-dry cycle kind of watering is not only wrong but can be detrimental to our plants. When we underwater our plants, they suffer water stress (that is, our plants become "thirsty"), and water stress causes our plants to wilt or fail to flower or fruit. Overwatering, on the other hand, can cause the exact same visual symptoms of that due to under-watering. Why? When we overwater our plants, the soil can contain

too much water, drowning the plant roots, risking plant roots decay, and ultimately, death. So, although the plants are surrounded by water, the plants will still wilt because their roots have decayed and become non-functioning to take up water from the soil.

But overwatering also causes another serious condition: nutrient leaching losses. Leaching is the washing away of nutrients from the soil due to excess water, whether by heavy rainfall or overwatering. This means the nutrients in the soil and that added from our fertilizers are easily washed away from the soil and lost to the plants. This problem is compounded when soils in Malaysia have generally weak retention of nutrients. One reason for this is our soils are inherently low in organic matter, a kind of "glue" that holds nutrients. Consequently, it is essential we add organic matter (such as from composts or garden wastes) to our soils to increase our soils' capability to hold onto nutrients.

Lastly, when should we water? Contrary to common perception, watering during hot days will not kill the plants – but could cause large water loss by evaporation. In other words, we waste water when we water during the afternoon and instead better to water our plants during cooler periods like in the early mornings or evenings.