



## MURA President's Report 2020/2021



## **MURA President's Report 2020/2021**

In the capacity as the President of MURA, I hereby report the following to our members on matters concerning the association for the year 2020/2021.

### **A. Membership**

As at 31st Dec 2021, MURA ordinary membership stands at 611 members consisting of 569 ordinary members 41 associate members and 1 honorary member.

### **B. Executive Committee**

During 2019 Annual General Meeting, the following new 2020/2022 MURA Office Bearers and 2020/2022 Committee Members were elected during the AGM on 29th February 2020.

The elected 2020/2022 MURA Committee are :

President: Victor Cheng

Deputy President: Edward Ooi

Vice President 1 : Mohd Bukhari Ismail

Vice President 2 : Ewegene Tan

Secretary: Ang Li Leen

Treasurer: Jane Liew

Committee: Chris Chan, Maylad Sadiqin, Mohd Fadzil Khalid, Ooi Boon Seong, Patrick Lai, Ray Lee, Toto Ong, Yong Chee Keat, Arman Arshad, Geoffrey Loh, Khor Foo Weng, Loh Wee Kheng, Wong Shoon Hooi, Zarina Abdul Rahman, Zulkiflee Zainal

Advisor: Ng Seow Kong



## **C. Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Pandemic**



In December 2019, the world was shaken by an unprecedented coronavirus outbreak that eventually led to a 3 year pandemic which struck nearly every country on earth.

The virus was later coined by World Health Organisation (WHO) as Covid-19 which landed on Malaysia's shore in early March 2020. As of today, Malaysia recorded more than 5 million covid cases and nearly 36,000 deaths. The nation was severely battered by this pandemic.

The Malaysian government imposed a nationwide lockdown on 18th March 2020 that eventually led to multiple Movement Control Orders (MCO) variations which lasted nearly 600 days that ended into an endemic stage on 1st November 2021.

Via the National Recovery Plan (Plan Pemulihan Negara -PPN) initiated and launched in June 2021, the economy and daily activities were resumed in stages until it was fully reopened in November 2021.

The ultra running fraternity and its activities was not spared from this global pandemic and during the national MCO period, no activities and events was allowed.

As this is an unprecedented period that no one had experience before, the norm has been disrupted and new SOPs has been placed in our lifestyles including organising and joining events.

Many organisers were eager in restarting their events during the pandemic but due to the many restrictions on the SOPs during the MCO period, it was difficult for all parties to be back on pre-pandemic track on organising events with mass participations.

MURA as a committee, was impartial on our consensus as a committee on supporting any events as long as it adheres to the government's SOP and guidelines that do not endanger or exposed anyone to the virus, which at that point in time had a very alarming fatality rate.

## **D. Post-Covid endemic Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for Ultra Events**

In early October 2021, Kementerian Belia Dan Sukan (KBS) has requested MURA to draft a post-covid endemic SOP guidelines for event application criteria by race organisers and to be presented to KBS for considerations.

MURA subsequently consulted various race organisers and race directors (RD) to get inputs for this SOP. All the RDs were very pro active in contributing a lot of valid considerations that was eventually consolidated into a very comprehensive SOP to be submitted to KBS.

MURA was also facilitating the race organisers with acknowledgement letters to their events for their eROSA submission for race events.

We eventually saw ultra running events resuming end of 2021 with strict Covid SOPs that saw many other race gradually resumed.

### **POST-COVID ENDEMIC SOP FOR ULTRA RACES IN MALAYSIA**

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**E. MURA's meeting with Tuan Nor Azli Bin Mohamad Daud,  
Pengarah Pembangunan Sukan , Kementerian Belia Dan Sukan (KBS)**



On 8th December 2021, MURA with a few other race directors, stakeholders and organisers had a meeting with Tuan Nor Azli Bin Mohamad Daud, Pengarah Pembangunan Sukan , Kementerian Belia Dan Sukan (KBS) in Putrajaya to discuss the future of ultra running events post pandemic.

Many issues were brought up and discussed including the new SOP created by MURA post-covid endemic, sanctioning of ultra races, possible dialogue and discussion with Malaysia Athletics Federation (MAF) on supporting MURA to be recognised by International Association of Ultrarunners (IAU) and sanctioning of ultra running events under MURA.

Moving forward with the new team in MURA, these point of discussion will be carried on with the new committee in future.

## F. Malaysia Ultra League (MUL)



The MUL season has been suspended for 3 years (2020, 2021 and 2022). Many runners and organisers has been enquiring when the next MUL season will resume.

MUL 2020 and 2021 didn't happened for obvious reasons. The whole nation was on a standstill, thus many activities were hampered and no races were allowed.

2022 saw the reactivation of ultra events post pandemic (endemic) but many races were facing a big challenge to achieve pre pandemic participations in their events. To resume an active league with over 40 races pre pandemic after a hiatus of 2 years is not an easy task especially with limited resources and lack of a title sponsor to fund the year end Gala & Awards Dinner. Those are the 2 main reasons why MUL was not reactivated in 2022.

However looking forward, MURA envisaged that the new committee will initiate back this unique ultra league and bring it to greater horizon in 2023 and beyond.

## G. Resignation of MURA President



Due to work and personal family commitments, the President has tendered his resignation via email to MURA's secretary on 14th September 2020. However pending the next AGM, the President has nevertheless been handling MURA's matters up to the current AGM in December 2022.

## H. MURA Beyond 2023



MURA was supposed to enter a new chapter with its inclusion into KBS as the main sanctioning body for ultra running races in Malaysia.

However, timing of the pandemic has dashed and derailed all the planning that was supposed to be implemented including creating a master guideline for all race organisers with KBS and the Sports Commission of Malaysia.

State MURA associations was supposed to be set up for the national committee to function under the KBS constitution. This was abruptly halted due to the long pandemic period.

The forthcoming dialogue with MAF was also delayed due to the pandemic as its crucial for MAF to support MURA to be recognised by IAU. Without being a member of IAU, MURA will not be able to regulate the ultra running sports for our athletes to compete in international events by IAU. This is a big step that will change the development of the sports for Malaysia in the international arena.

Looking beyond existing localised activities such as LSDs, Talks, Bootcamps, etc, MURA has to work towards a bigger role in actively regulating the sports into an internationally competitive one and also to identify Malaysian talents to represent the country.

The MUL is also a good platform to cohesively develop the sports with all organisers coming together for the betterment of the sports in both the local and international ultra running arena.

## I. Closing Remarks

We have all gone through an unprecedented time in our lifetime that has impacted so many of us during these trying times. We look forward to a better post pandemic era and learn from this worldwide bitter episode and come out stronger as before in no matter whatever we envisaged in life.

Life is too fragile to just let it pass by. Here on behalf of MURA committee, I would like to recognise a committee member of ours that has lost the battle to this pandemic. Fellow ultra runner Mohd Fadzil Khalid, you will always be remembered as a jovial and positive friend that will always look at the positive side of things even when life is not going the way we want. His positivity in life will always be forever cherished.

I would like to reiterate my wish in 2019 of seeing MURA working towards a more constructive macro and micro structuring of the sports with emphasis towards the betterment of ultra running and our community through the following 4 pillars - Standards, Safety, Support and Skill.

**STANDARDS** - we need to keep the standards of our races high and international level worthy to attract more local and international runners and compete with renown world class races in the world.

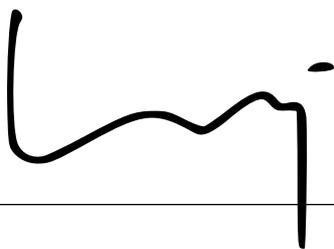
**SAFETY** - to improve on safety aspects of races including medical support, food nutrition, proper marked routes, etc.

**SUPPORT** - without the support of ultra runners, it will be obsolete to have the best ultra races and most ultra races.

**SKILL** - local ultra runners should be groomed and compete in the international circuit and elevate the competency amongst local and international runners.

“NONE OF US, INCLUDING ME, EVER DO GREAT THINGS.  
BUT WE CAN ALL DO SMALL THINGS,  
WITH GREAT LOVE, AND TOGETHER  
WE CAN DO SOMETHING WONDERFUL”

- Mother Teresa



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Victor Cheng  
President, Malaysia Ultra Running Association (MURA)  
On behalf of 2020/2022 Executive Committee  
14th Dec 2022

