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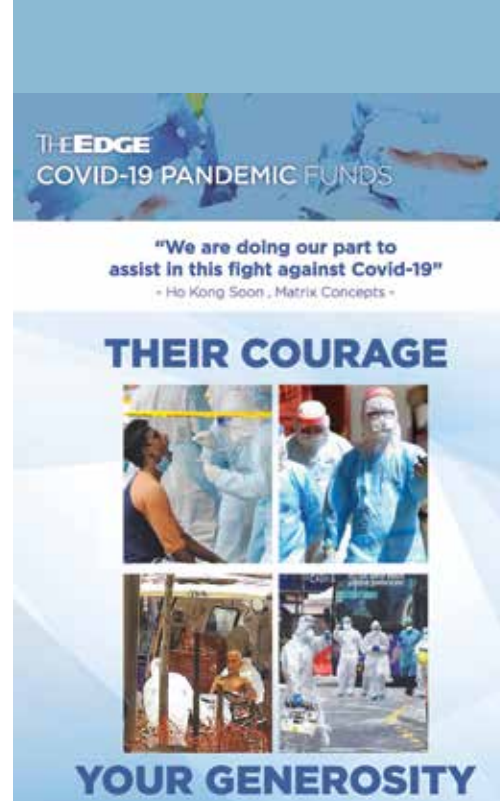
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Group Milestones



2017



2018



Top 10 People's Choice Award, The Progressive Developer Award, Best Township Development Award – Bandar Sri Sendayan

Best Affordable Development Award Astania & Astana, Tiara Sendayan

Best Residential Landed Development Award Cadena Terraces @ Ara Sendayan

Best Transit – Oriented Development Chamber Kuala Lumpur



Matrix Concepts Holdings Berhad awarded Gold – Governance, Environmental Responsibility and Social Responsibility from The Asset Awards 2018, Hong Kong

2019



Property Insight Prestigious Developer Awards (PIPDA) 2019
– Best Landed Development (Lunaria 3 @ Resort Homes)
– Best Township Development (Bandar Sri Sendayan)
– Top 10 Developer



Property Guru Asia Property Malaysia Award
– Special Recognition in CSR – Special Recognition in Sustainable Development
– Special Recognition for Building Communities
– Special Recognition for Industrial/Logistic Development (Sendayan TechValley)
– Best Township Development (Bdr Sri Sendayan)
– Best Township Development (Klang Valley)



The Edge Property Excellence Awards (TEPEA) 2019
– Top Property Developer Award
– Winner Best Township Development

2020





Kindness Regardless Of Race And Colour

The passing months have been depressing as countries go into lockdown and economies suffer due to the coronavirus pandemic. Despite setbacks, many have risen to the occasion and reached out a helping hand towards those in need — regardless of race and colour.

In order to provide assistance, Matrix Concepts absorbed almost RM200,000 to provide food and groceries to its 2,200 foreign construction workers (pg 13) and food aid to the 109 orang asli families (pg 34) during the period when the country enforced its Movement Control Order (MCO).

Members of the media (pg 14) as well as frontliners (pg 22) were also kept in our thoughts, with the latter given free room and board at d'Sora Boutique Business Hotel.

Further recognising the need to enhance support, the company donated RM1 million to COVID-19 funds (pg 12) and distributed face masks (pg 24) to help slow the spread of the virus.

The way of life has been abruptly interrupted with many businesses struggling to stay afloat and ordinary households finding themselves with added financial burdens. New rules and conduct are being formed

everyday in order to make sense of the new reality of having to live with a highly contagious virus. In this issue, we made it a point to look at how businesses can be transformed (pg 26) and what small changes every households can make in order to ride through the recession (pg 54).

Buried in mass news reels, one may have forgotten to celebrate the small wins. Seremban, as of January 2020, was officially granted city status, which will aid in its economic planning heading into the future. Along with that, over a two year national study of happiness, the new city also bagged a place as one of the happiest cities in the country (pg 42). Matrix Concepts holds great pride in being one of the main developers of communities and townships in Seremban.

We are very proud of being a part of Seremban and contributing to its growth. Everyday, we are amazed by the kindness and sense of togetherness this community has provided. This is evident from the two-day blood drive organised by Matrix Concepts that resulted in 442 blood bags collected — highest record thus far for the state of Negeri Sembilan (pg 38).

We are humbled and will continue to shine through, along with the rest of you!

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Working @ Matrix Concepts

What is it like being a part of Matrix? Or more specifically, in the construction arm – Matrix Excelcon? Well, I can tell you this: working here is intense. As my project director, Mr. Chia always says, 'Construction means working non-stop and long hours to keep pushing the project to meet the target schedule.'

The people working here are mad – working long hours from Monday to Saturday and sometimes even Sunday. I am proud to be part of a team of really dedicated people, always encouraging and pushing each other to go further.

Personally, I enjoy the intensity, the hustle, the excitement, and the sense of achievement to see a project come to life.

On a special note, the company's decision to supply food to all foreign workers for free during MCO to make sure they pull through really touched my heart.

Working here may not be easy at all, but it is a true pleasure to work in a company that genuinely cares about its people.

Kelvin Lee
Executive Assistant to Group Managing Director

Career Opportunity

We at Matrix Concepts Holdings Berhad understand that our associates and workforce are the backbone of the organisation, and we are on the look-out for talented yet down-to earth team mates to join us as we grow together.

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(Right) Dato' Lee Tian Hock, group executive deputy chairman of Matrix Concepts also chairman of Mawar Medical Centre, doing the PCR swab test during the drive thru at Mawar Medical Centre.

Mawar Medical Centre Drive-Thru COVID-19 Test

30 March 2020 – Mawar Medical Centre (MMC) became the first private hospital in Negri Sembilan to provide drive-thru COVID-19 testing to assist in the workload of government hospitals during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period.

Dato' Lee Tian Hock, founder and group executive deputy chairman of Matrix Concepts Holdings Berhad who is also MMC's chairman became the first person to be tested, taking only five minutes for the swab test without alighting from his vehicle.

'It was a precautionary step since I have met with a number of business associates. Also, I have asked my staff who have been dealing with our site workers to get tested and the company will bear the cost,' said Dato' Lee during the official launching of the drive-thru COVID-19 test.

Dr. Ong Chiew Ping, deputy medical director, MMC, said the hospital only accepts appointments of 15 to 20 drive-thru individuals per day and the test results will be ready in three to five days.

The drive-thru COVID-19 test at MMC is a service for any and every one who wishes to be tested.

As of 26 June 2020, Mawar Medical Centre has conducted 5,569 COVID-19 tests since the kick-off on 30 March 2020.



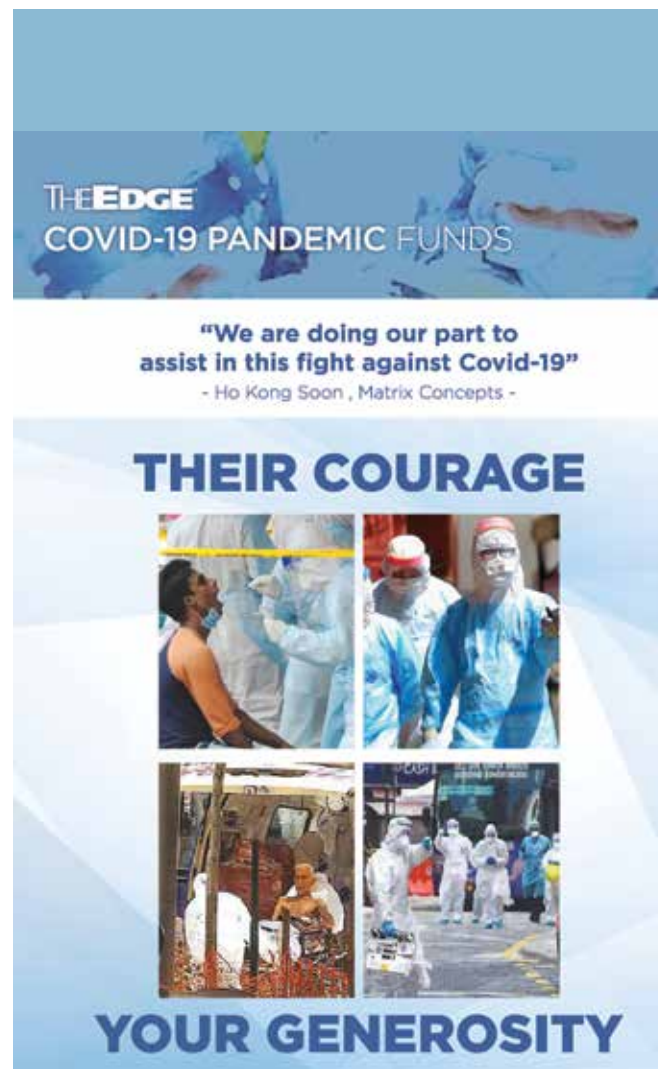
Matrix Concepts Donated RM1 Million To COVID-19 Funds

23 March 2020 – A total of RM1 million was contributed to COVID-19 funds by Matrix Concepts Holdings Berhad.

RM500,000 was donated to The Edge COVID-19 Equipment Fund to purchase ventilators for COVID-19 designated government hospitals and the other half a million ringgit was directed to Negri Sembilan State COVID-19 Fund.

'We are doing our part to assist in this fight against COVID-19 and it is our hope that the other corporates in Malaysia will feel the same way too,' urged Mr. Ho Kong Soon, group managing director of Matrix Concepts.

As reported, The Edge COVID-19 PANDEMIC FUNDS have collected a total of RM25 million as of 19 June 2020 due to the generosity of corporates in Malaysia.



Aiding Construction Foreign Workers

13 April 2020 – Matrix Concepts has absorbed over RM200,000 for all construction foreign workers working for its projects in Klang Valley, Negri Sembilan and Johor, totaling 2,200 people during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period.

'When the MCO was declared on 18 March 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19, we decided that we must extend help to our foreign workers and those who work at our construction sites as there would be difficulty in getting food supply.

'Arrangements were made to deliver groceries like rice, cooking oil, salt, sugar, eggs, sauces, fresh vegetables and canned items.

'In fact, the workers can even request certain provisions like fish, chicken and meat to be delivered next.

'On top of that, we needed to ensure the safety of everyone. Therefore, we implemented tight controls on the movement of all the workers, we only allowed them to go out for medical reasons whereby the designated site supervisors will take them to the hospital or medical centres.

'Even months before the implementation of the mandatory COVID-19 tests for construction foreign workers, Matrix Concepts has already arranged for Mawar Medical Centre doctors and medical personnel to conduct COVID-19 tests on everyone at site,' explained Dato' Lee Tian Hock, founder and group executive deputy chairman of Matrix Concepts Holdings Berhad.

Dato' Lee further explained that it was only the right thing to do during this COVID-19 crisis and all its construction foreign workers were tested COVID-19 negative.



A Small Protective Gesture

3 April 2020 – In a series of contribution during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period, Matrix Concepts donated face masks, hand sanitisers, vitamins and even food to various media organisations in Negri Sembilan.

'The media personnel are the unsung heroes as they are exposed to many risks while carrying out their jobs.'

'In ensuring current updates and accurate information to the public, it is always at the expense of their own lives and even their families.'

'This is just a small gesture from all of us in Matrix Concepts,' said Mr. Chong Kok Kiong, media co-ordinator of Matrix Concepts.

There were another few rounds of contribution made by Matrix Concepts to the media during the Movement Control Order and the Conditional Movement Control Order later on.



Virtual Corporate Briefing & Press Conference

10 July 2020 - Matrix Concepts held its first ever virtual Corporate Briefing for its 4QFY20 Results and its Press Conference immediately after.

Its chairman Dato' Haji Mohamad Haslah bin Mohamad Amin and its founder and group executive deputy chairman, Dato' Lee Tian Hock, fielded questions with confidence from the analysts and the press about the performance of the Group and its plans moving forward.

Dato' Haji Mohamad Haslah mentioned that the group is optimistically cautious in meeting its FY21 targets.



Dato' Lee explaining the bookings figures during MCO period to the press.



Laman Sendayan @ Bandar Sri Sendayan

Vibrant & Secured - And Only a Short Drive to Port Dickson



Laman Sendayan @ Bandar Sri Sendayan will consist of about 1,500 units of freehold residential and commercial landed properties.

Targeted to be launched within the second half of 2020, these single storey terrace (SST) houses and double storey terrace (DST) units will be among the most affordable price-ranged projects by Matrix Concepts currently.

Ranging from built-ups of 1,075 sq feet to 2,267 sq feet, the SST units will be priced from RM230,000 onwards and the DST units, will be from RM350,000 onwards.

Laman Sendayan @ Bandar Sri Sendayan development is secured with boom-gate access and guarded, and comes with perimeter fencing for safety and security reasons for the modern-day families.

A central park of 3.3 acres with basketball court, reflexology path and a winding joggers track are amongst the facilities to be made available for Laman Sendayan residents.

Laman Sendayan is a freehold development of 110 acres, adjacent to the established vibrant township of Bandar Sri Sendayan.

Located 20 kilometres to Port Dickson, Laman Sendayan @ Bandar Sri Sendayan would be an ideal residential area for young couples and families.

For Early Bird Registration promotion, kindly call our hotline at 1800 88 2688 and log on to www.lamansendayan.com

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Impiana Damai 2A @ Bandar Seri Impian, Kluang

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Soon to be launched within the early 3rd quarter of 2020 - Impiana Damai 2A in Bandar Seri Impian, Kluang will provide a bigger and better space for each growing family in Johor.

With large built-ups ranging from 2,650 sq.ft. to 3,445 sq.ft., the freehold double-storey terrace houses aptly named Eloisa 1 & 2 cater for those families who want to grow together while still maintaining some bit of privacy in-between.

Located nearby to Gunung Lambak, the families in the limited 135 units of houses in Impiana Damai 2A will appreciate the green surroundings and tranquility of the small mountain range, besides the economic appreciation value of the development in the near future.

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Chinese New Year Ocean Kingdom At Bandar Sri Sendayan

1 February 2020 – For Chinese New Year, d'Tempat Country Club at Bandar Sri Sendayan was transformed into a lanterned sea-world of coral reefs and fish, complete with an 8-foot tall dragon which was accompanied by seven large rat sculptures to welcome the Year of the Rat.



(From left) Mr Ho Kong Soon, group managing director of Matrix Concepts; YB Dato' Dr. Razali Bin Ab Malik, Negri Sembilan state secretary; Dato' Haji Mohamad Haslah Bin Mohamad Amin, chairman of Matrix Concepts; Dato' Lee Tian Hock, founder & group executive deputy chairman of Matrix Concepts; Datin Yong Chou Lian, wife to founder and Mr Leong Jee Van, chief executive officer of Matrix Concepts during the celebration of Chinese New Year Ocean Kingdom.



The unique Chinese New Year under the sea theme – Ocean Kingdom provided Instagram-worthy photo spots for visitors and interesting sea-world elements like a huge pearl oyster, corals, fish and most importantly, mice.

'The inspiration behind our Chinese New Year decoration of Ocean Kingdom is to bring these elements to life in celebrating the Year of the Rat towards prosperity and harmony for all,' explained Mr. Lim Kok Yee, chief marketing officer of Matrix Concepts.

A 10-foot diameter Sea Aquarium took centre-stage and the main attraction was the three adult shark inhabitants which were fed by Scuba Fortune God at 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm daily.

Other activities such as Acrobatic Lion Dance was staged at 5.00 pm on 1 February 2020 to usher in the new year and the Rat Mascot made its appearance to spread prosperity on both days.

Ocean Kingdom was opened to the public from 3.00 pm to 10.00 pm on 1 & 2 February 2020 and admission was free.





Providing An R&R Pit-Stop For N9 Frontliners

14 April 2020 – d'Sora Boutique Business Hotel opened its doors for 26 days to provide a 'rest & relaxation' (R&R) pit-stop, totaling 49 room nights for almost 35 Negri Sembilan frontliners who had to screen residents nearby after a new cluster of COVID-19 was detected during the Movement Control Order (MCO).

'It is a small part for us to assist our frontliners. d'Sora Boutique Business Hotel under Matrix Concepts will fully sponsor the accommodation of all the frontliners involved throughout their stay here.'

'This is just one of our corporate responsibility activities for the medical personnel, the armed forces, the police, the district officers, and the National Security Council as well as the Voluntary Department who have worked tirelessly and without fear in carrying out their responsibilities and duties for the nation,' said Mr. Ho Kong Soon, group managing director of Matrix Concepts.



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(Two from left) Datin Yong Chou Lian, president of Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) Seremban, also the advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation presenting the face masks to the police personnel.



3,800 Pieces Of Face Masks Donated During Early MCO

3 April 2020 – 3,800 face masks were donated to dialysis patients at Mawar Medical Centre, NSCMH Medical Centre, Seremban District Police Headquarters (IPK) and Seremban 2 Police Station during the early phase of the Movement Control Order (MCO).

'We understand that there is a shortage and it is very difficult to get these face masks at this time especially for the dialysis patients and the frontliners.'

'Hence, our association in Seremban felt compelled to come forward by doing our part in this pandemic fight,' said Datin Yong Chou Lian, president of Buddha's Light International Association Seremban, who is also the advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation.

'Most of the patients are from the B40 and M40 groups who are not well-to-do and they are among the high-risk group due to their age and medical conditions.'

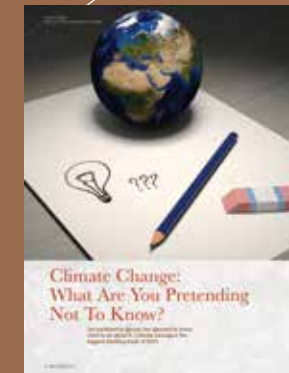
'The police personnel are risking their lives every day for all of us. This is a small contribution compared to that,' expressed Datin Yong in her appreciation note at the simple hand-over ceremony to IPK Seremban Assistant Commissioner, Tuan Mohd Said Ibrahim.

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CLIMATE CHANGE: WHAT ARE YOU PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW?

The hottest trending topic of 2019 and what you need to know

Volume 13; Jan 2020



A PASSAGE OF TIME AND WONDERMENT

This small town of Kluang, Johor is more than meets the eye

Volume 13; Jan 2020



STARTER GUIDE TO STARTER BUSINESS

Things to bear in mind when starting a new business

Volume 13; Jan 2020



THE SLIME OF A LIFETIME

A baron-free do-it-yourself slime for hours and hours of goeey fun

Volume 12; July 2019



If your business wasn't online before, it definitely should be now.



The year 2020 will forever be etched in everyone's memories, with the change in Malaysia's political landscape and a novel coronavirus (otherwise coined COVID-19) changing our social lifestyle and impacting the economy globally.

In unlikely hours, people are often called to rise and rise they shall. With the time afforded, many average workers have reinvented the way they do business or, altogether, change the direction of their careers. There is no end to the human's willingness to survive and as a result, creating endless possibilities to realise a goal.

Why online?

Digitalisation has been in the pipe for decades, but it took a global lockdown for entrepreneurs and business owners to prioritise it as number one. With social gatherings limited and ordinary operations conflicted, businesses are forced to re-look at their sales strategies and platforms in which they do merchandising.

This re-look affects every sector, from traditional manufacturing and distribution set-ups to retailers and service providers. While online, yes, has been in the pipe, it is only now in 2020 that the push to fully digitise and go virtual became the active (and only) solution to tackle inaccessibilities.

Sounds daunting! But fret not — for there are multiple platforms that are ideal for your business-type and what you aim to achieve.

The backbone that is a website

In previous passing years, website development has been costly and requires the hiring of a professional web developer. Web presence is the first footprint that any business or entity leaves on the greater world wide web. Its unique address, known as a URL, not only gives a business presence but also an identity. Skipping this step leaves your business at a disadvantage as it is the only online platform to provide potential customers and users with a comprehensive overview of your products and services.

The set-up is simple enough and doesn't cost an exuberant amount of money if you do it yourself.

First, you'll need to run a search on MYNIC (mynic.my) for your desired domain name (www.yourdesiredname.com.my). Once your domain search is done and the name is available, make the purchase. Domain names are similar to that of properties — they range in price due to its sought-after value. You can secure your domain name for as low as RM99.



Most server hosts will help you point your domain to the server if purchased separately; however, because domain names are solely unique, you can purchase the two from the same provider for a hassle-free set-up.



Next, you'll need to set up a server host. Malaysia's top public host providers are Exabytes (exabytes.my) and Server Freak (web-hosting.net.my). Depending on what your business requires, choose a package that is suitable. For most small-to-medium enterprises, a basic package will suffice and costs round RM199 for the first year, subject to renewal every year thereafter.

Bear in mind to look for a server host with good client servicing, as you'll be needing their assistance to answer any questions you may have while developing your website. Most server hosts will help you point your domain to the server if purchased separately; however, because domain names are solely unique, you can purchase the two from the same provider for a hassle-free set-up.

Now, it's time for the fun part: creating a website.

Templates, templates, templates

As mentioned, website development used to cost a lot and required a professional. Thankfully, times have changed and with change, comes innovation. The largest website template seller in the world is Wordpress. Founded in 2003, the company is most known for its free and open-source content management system, otherwise known as CMS.

Wordpress is the main platform used by bloggers. Its seamless dashboard with easy-to-use click to publish option is just the tip of the iceberg of what Wordpress can provide first-time developers. Web developers often design Wordpress themes and sell it to the public on Wordpress's designated theme e-Commerce, Theme Forest (themeforest.net).

Themes can come free, but its plugins and designs may be limited. Opt for a purchased theme, which can start anywhere from USD20 to very advanced and responsive templates costing upwards USD89. Considering how web developers charge, this is relatively cheap and, what more, you as a client, won't be subject to design fallacy or conflict.

Once you have decided on a theme, simply purchase and download the zip file. Unzip and upload onto your Wordpress platform and start customising. Its competitor, Wix (wix.com) also offers similar plug and play template for developing websites. While it is less thorough than Wordpress, Wix is much easier to use and has a fixed annual subscription fee.

Photo source: wordpress.org



Photo source: straitstimes.com

Facebook Marketplace vs Others

Facebook changed the world when it launched in 2004; then it changed the world again when it started allowing the purchasing/sponsoring of ads in 2012. In 2016, the once social media networking platform shocked the world of its users by launching Facebook Marketplace. The aim was simple: to allow its 2.6 billion users to sell, buy and trade goods. While Facebook Business has been around since 2007 to provide presence in the same way as websites do, businesses that list on Facebook Business are skewed for its platform solely.

Facebook Marketplace was initially launched to only service peer-to-peer shopping; however in the later years, it expanded to include merchants. Nearly 900 million people worldwide uses Facebook Marketplace, which is a sizeable market even when compared against e-Commerce giants (think Shopee, Lazada) with complicated contractual rules and guidelines for merchandising.

As a sales channel, Facebook Marketplace only permits the selling of products. No services can be listed and all sellers are encouraged to constantly update their inventory as to avoid conflict in fulfilment. Sellers or merchants are able to connect with their customers and vice versa so that any questions between buyer-seller may be addressed.

But again, why choose Facebook Marketplace as opposed to others? A few reasons: set-up takes less than 10 minutes, competition is skewed accordingly, sellers are able to customise their consumer experience and lastly — the big one — it's absolutely free to list and trade.

Going LIVE

All the big guns need to be pulled together for service providers and consultants. Not only is a web presence in the form of websites important, but also an identity on Facebook, YouTube, TikTok, Twitter and Instagram are of equal importance. Service providers are not much in the industry of trading physical goods as opposed to creative ideas and advisories.

Take for example physical trainers. While studios remain close, they have to become innovative in how they market their trainings online. Often, studio trainers do not have the direct contact of students who attend their classes, so they have to be innovative in the way they secure students for a group video session. It's not in everyone's ability to pre-record and do post-editing of workouts. And for students that lean into having a support system during their workout, trainers only option is to go LIVE with their routine.

It's important to get everything right so when the Zoom conference call opens, there are students logged in simultaneously to participate. Create week-long schedules of timetable and class description. Post them on your designated website, Facebook and others so that the schedule reaches an audience.

Spend some time to make sure the camera angle is correct, whether you are streaming from your laptop, desktop with web camera or your phone. It's important



that your students are able to see you. Invest in earbuds with a sensitive microphone. Audio is vital for a successful live stream. Once all equipment and set-up have been tested and found to be in perfection, start your class.

If you are using Zoom, be sure to click the Record tab so that the session can be captured for later use. If you're opting to go on YouTube, authorise the stream to air in tandem with Facebook and Instagram LIVE so others not on the conference can join in. By increasing the reach across multiple platforms, you'll be able to garner more eyeballs for the same amount of work.



It's important to get everything right so when the Zoom conference call opens, there are students logged in simultaneously to participate.



Sharing the joy with the residents in conjunction with Chinese New Year celebrations.

Chinese New Year Joy

4 January 2020 – In celebration of Chinese New Year, Matrix Concepts Foundation brought some joy to sixteen elderly residents aged 69 and above, at Sikamat New Village Old Folks Home.

MCF
MATRIX
CONCEPTS
Foundation

'Chinese New Year is celebrated with lots of joy and merriment. And for many, it is a time for family and relatives. However, these sixteen residents in this home do not have what most of us take for granted. They are without family and have been left alone to fend for themselves at an age where they should be cherished and well taken care of.'

'There are many abandoned old people who are homeless and these homes are lifesavers to them. The private sector can alleviate some of the concerns besides monetary funding, in relations to the overall wellbeing of the residents. The residents do not need much and most of the time, they just need a caring ear,' said Dato Logendran a/l K. Narayanasamy, chairman of Matrix Concepts Foundation.

'To have a caring civilised society, we must start now and as a caring corporate citizen, we must inculcate the feeling of empathy in our employees besides filial piety and one of the efforts is through such external visits and activities.'



The residents were treated to mouth-watering food, tai chi exercise and Chinese New Year songs.



Seeing is 'believing,' explained Datin Yong Chou Lian, advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation and spouse to Dato' Lee Tian Hock.

The residents were treated to a buffet of fish porridge, soft food and cut fruits after an invigorating tai chi exercise session. Further adding to the festivities, 34 women members of Buddha's Light International Association (BLIA) Seremban Branch, who are also members of d'Tempat, a local country club in Bandar Sri Sendayan, joined in the merriment of singing Chinese New Year songs.

The residents were then handed angpows and Chinese New Year goodies by Datin Yong and Dato' Logendran as small tokens in celebrating the coming festive.





The two villages involved were Kampung Orang Asli Pakbar Baru with 57 families and 52 families in Kampung Orang Asli Bukit Kepong.

The food and groceries amounting to RM22,000 were delivered in a 5-tonne lorry and were given out to the heads of families during the distribution session throughout the day.

'It is part of our Matrix Concepts' corporate social responsibility programme to assist those in need especially during this Movement Control Order, as it is even more difficult for them as the villages are situated quite deep in and a distance from town and the main roads.

'In line with the social distancing and health concerns, the food was distributed systematically and efficiently with the aid of the village heads communicated prior to the distribution. At any one time, the queue was six family heads on their motorcycles or vehicles.'

'The Kampung Orang Asli Pakbar Baru holds sentimental value, as it is the re-settlement of the orang asli in Pelebar village in Labu, Sendayan a few years ago. In return of the land in Sendayan, Matrix Concepts and the Negri Sembilan state government provided housing complete with infrastructure and a 5-acre plot of land for each family towards their livelihood and sustenance in Port Dickson,' explained Matrix Concepts Foundation advisor, Datin Yong Chou Lian.

109 Orang Asli Families Received Food Aid



18 April 2020 – Matrix Concepts Foundation distributed food and groceries to 109 orang asli families in Pasir Panjang, Port Dickson.





(From left to right) Dr. Ong Chiew Ping, deputy medical director of Mawar Medical Centre; Dato' Logendran a/l K. Narayanasamy, chairman of Matrix Concepts Foundation; Jason Loke, chief operating officer (finance) of Mawar Medical Centre; Dato' Dr. Vijaya Singam, medical director of Mawar Medical Centre; and Professor Emeritus, Datuk Seri Dr. Satiadass, chief executive officer of Mawar Medical Centre.

Heeding The Call Of The Blood Bank



18 May 2020 – Matrix Concepts Foundation together with Riway Sdn Bhd invited fifty of its members to donate blood at a private donation drive in Mawar Medical Centre.

The Negri Sembilan Blood Bank in Hospital Tuanku Jaafar Seremban has been running low of its blood stock for the past two months due to the Movement Control Order (MCO) and the Ramadan month.

Dato Logendran a/l K. Narayanasamy, chairman of Matrix Concepts Foundation said this is part of the corporate social responsibility initiative by Matrix Concepts Foundation to assist and replenish the blood stock of the State's Blood Bank since the blood stock has dropped to a critical level.

'For the past two months, the blood bank level is at 30%. On average, the daily stock should be 1,000 packs of usable blood but now, it is at 300 packs per day – a drastic drop of 70%.

'It is a necessary call to heed for many of us here, as this is one of the few limited contributions which we could do especially during this trying time and to assist our fellow Malaysians in our nation's fight against COVID-19.



'The reason this donation drive is done at Mawar Medical Centre is because it is the only private medical centre in Malaysia that has a Transfusion Medicine Specialist – Dr Ong Chiew Ping who is overseeing this effort of ours,' said Dato Logendran a/l K. Narayanasamy, chairman of Matrix Concepts Foundation.

Ms Jojoh Lee from Riway Sdn Bhd explained that due to the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) and in adhering to the Ministry of Health Standard Operating Procedures, this drive was limited to only 50 donors with staggered sessions from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm.



(Left) Dato' Logendran a/l K. Narayanasamy, chairman of Matrix Concepts Foundation (MCF), presenting the mock cheque to (right) Vasanthi Naidu, chairperson of Shelter Home for Abused Women and Children and witnessed by (middle) Datin Yong Chou Lian, advisor of MCF.

Coming Together In Fighting COVID-19



11 June 2020 – Matrix Concepts Foundation (MCF) in collaboration with Fibertex Personal Care Sdn Bhd has donated 232 personal protective equipment (PPE) suits and socks worth RM8,000 to the NSCMH Medical Centre (NSCMH) earlier last month.



'In our nation's fight against COVID-19, PPE suits are amongst the most essential gear for our front liners. There was a shortage of PPEs and we requested Shelter Home Seremban to sew these since the non-woven material donated by Fibertex came just at the right time.

'As an acknowledgement of their efforts and hard work, MCF is pleased to present a token of appreciation totaling RM2,800,' said Dato' Logendran a/l K. Narayanasamy, chairman of Matrix Concepts Foundation who presented the cheque to Ms. Vasanthi Naidu, chairperson of Shelter Home Seremban.

'We are very pleased to do our part during this trying time and our ten volunteers who are single mothers and from the B40 group managed to finish the suits and socks within six days (5-11 May 2020). We sewed using the sewing machines which were donated by MCF too in 2018 and from this urgent request, we can now sew PPEs besides the clothing and curtains orders which we normally do. This will be part of our Shelter Home sustainability and livelihood plan for our abused women and volunteers,' Ms Vasanthi explained.

The mock cheque presentation was witnessed by Datin Yong Chou Lian who is the advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation.



(From left to right) Professor Emeritus, Datuk Seri Dr. Satiadass, chief executive officer of Mawar Medical Centre & Pusat Hemodialisis Mawar; Dato' Logendran a/l K.Narayanasamy, chairman of Matrix Concepts Foundation; Dato' Lee Tian Hock, founder & group executive deputy chairman of Matrix Concepts cum chairman of Mawar Medical Centre & Pusat Hemodialisis Mawar; Datin Yong Chou Lian, advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation and Dato' Dr. Vijaya Singham, medical director of Mawar Medical Centre & Pusat Hemodialisis Mawar during the press conference of the Blood Donation Drive.

Overwhelming Response For Blood Donation Drive

442 Blood Bags Collected - Highest Record in Negri Sembilan



28 June 2020 – Blood donors and the public in Negri Sembilan rallied and turned up at the two-day blood donation drive by Matrix Concepts Foundation and Buddha's Light International Association, together with Mawar Medical Centre.



(Two from left) Datin Yong Chou Lian, advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation presenting the health screening vouchers from Mawar Medical Centre to one of the donors.



Donate blood, donate life. Negri Sembilan Basketball Association (NSBA) team did their part.



'The donors who came were from different walks of life and it was great to see such diversity in solidarity for a good cause. We are very fortunate to live in a multi-racial country where all of us live in peace and harmony,' said Datin Yong Chou Lian, advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation and president of Buddha's Light International Association, Seremban.



Held on 27 & 28 June 2020 at Mawar Medical Centre from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm, the blood donation drive attracted a few hundred of people.

'We targeted 200 donors initially but looking at the overwhelming response, we revised it to 300. Hospital Tuanku Jaa'far Blood Bank had to increase its equipment brought over, from 12 beds to 15 beds too.

'We are very happy to achieve 442 blood bags and 600 people came forward during these two days, some came as early as 8.30 am.



(From left to right) Datin Yong Chou Lian, advisor of Matrix Concepts Foundation; Dato' Lee Tian Hock, founder & group executive deputy chairman of Matrix Concepts cum chairman of Mawar Medical Centre & Pusat Hemodialisis Mawar and Dr. Ong Chiew Ping, deputy medical director of Mawar Medical Centre with our 422nd donor, Tiong Jin Yong.

A City of Happiness

After gaining its city status in January, Seremban yet again bags a win in being ranked one of the happiest cities in Malaysia.

I ♥ N9

Happiest place ever!

The question as to 'what is happiness' is not only complex, but impossible to uniformly share in one single sentiment as a collective. However, happiness plays a crucial role in everyone's lives and ripples into every crevice of thyself and society.

Happiness has been studied for nearly two decades, however, a unilaterally agreed upon framework has yet to be established. In 2013, together with the Gallup World Poll and independent experts, The World Happiness Report was launched, giving insights to the state of 156 countries' citizens welfare as well as state affairs.

Since the launch of the report, Malaysia has ranked relatively well, sitting snugly after Singapore at 40 and 35 (2013-2017, 2018), respectively. In 2018, Malaysia's own governing body launched a study into the cities and states with the highest happiness index in order to zoom in on district development and gain more understanding into its residents' welfare.

Topping the chart were Melaka, Taiping and Seremban, among seven others ranked from one to 10. The study was released on International Day of Happiness 2020, which falls on 20 March annually. 'The Happiness Index is a measurement of a population's well-being, including health, mental and physical well-being,' said the Town and County Planning Department (PlanMalaysia).

'The Happiness Index will help local authorities to determine the level of happiness and well-being of the people. At the same time, it can help them to improve their services to the population,' the department added.

Assessed over a year-long period, the study measured components involving lifestyle and health status, happiness among family and relatives, work-and-life balance, household economic status, community activities, security and environmental quality.

Happiness is a state, not a trait

If there is one thing all sociologists, psychologists, lexiconists and scientists can agree on is that happiness is a state rather than a trait. Happiness in and of itself is not everlasting and can shift depending on circumstances or experiences. Despite its illusiveness, everyone's measurement of happiness differs; however, its definitive moment is an overall satisfaction or contentment in a certain place or time. Of course, this can be experienced internally or externally, provided that one has a clear understanding of what defines happiness.

Social Psychologist Professor Roy F Baumeister wrote in a 2013 essay: 'Humans may resemble many other creatures in their striving for happiness, but the quest for meaning

is a key part of what makes us human, and uniquely so.'

This quest for meaning is the pursuit of life with minimal difficulties in relations to family, community, finance, health and creativity. All these relations overlap into one another and are in no aspect mutually exclusive.

With globalisation and information at everyone's fingertips, being an individual existing within a community has its dire demands. As perplexing and back to basics as it may seem, more and more modern families are migrating into suburban townships with growth potential to steadily raise children and pursue financial stability.



A city through and through

The quiet yet bustling town of Seremban bagged one of the top places in the National Happiness Index. As the only urban city to make it on the list, Seremban has been serenely turning its once 'kampung' status into that of a competitive township to attract businesses and other opportunities. In early 2020, the township officially stripped its town title and entered the category of a city.

The petition from the Seremban Municipal Council was first submitted in 2016. It wasn't until after its merger with the Nilai Municipal Council, formally opening the Seremban City Council, that the Housing and Local Government of Malaysia proclaimed it as a city.

Boasting a booming economy with sky high potentials, development in Seremban are well sought-after for modern families looking to both balance a work-life agenda and enjoy a more affordable, slower pace in lifestyle.

Gaining city status is more than just a switch of a title. Different from districts, towns and counties, cities are, in a way, incorporated entities under a constituent. Cities are granted governing power by the state and are free to provide assistance to its citizens on behalf of the local government.

Clean and green

Despite Seremban now being recognised as a city, the on-going nurturing and preservation of its clean and green state will be sustained. Falsely identified, a city doesn't mean slabs of concrete and metropolitan skyscrapers. Being able to balance economic development and the city's agenda to create sustainable and affordable housing will not compromise the lushness and environmentally conscious state of Seremban.

When Matrix Concepts conceptualised its Ara Sendayan Precinct 2's Ervina, it was exactly with preservations of a green community in mind. As the only hill-top residence within the community, the homes of Ervina face north-south and are enclaved by surrounding foliage and faunas, giving each unit a unique blend of privacy and security.

The unique development spreads across 9.26 acres with all units perched on hill slopes with natural winds and sunlight. Further accentuating its unobstructed clean and green ambience, each unit sits at a vantage point, overlooking a scenic lake and meandering waterway.

Ervina is perfect for any household who bustles during the week and seeks for quiet, solace mornings with a view.



'Humans may resemble many other creatures in their striving for happiness, but the quest for meaning is a key part of what makes us human, and uniquely so.'

-Social Psychologist Professor Roy F Baumeister

Ease of connectivity

One of the core reasons that ranks Seremban among the happiest cities in Malaysia is its location. Connected to the North-South Expressway, Seremban is just under an hour drive from capital city Kuala Lumpur and is 15-kilometre northwest from Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA, KLIA2).

Boasting a booming economy with sky high potentials, development in Seremban are well sought-after for modern families looking to both balance a work-life agenda and enjoy a more affordable, slower pace in lifestyle.

This connectivity between urban and suburban living makes Seremban the ideal place to consider retirement. After much research, Matrix Concepts realised the need to meet the demands of young families looking for long-term planning that bridges between both lifestyles.

Crisantha @ Resort Homes was architected to serve as that bridge. The latest collection to enter Resort Homes in Bandar Sri Sendayan, the freehold neighbourhood



will be set amidst a restful oasis with an airy ambience, giving residents a unique sense of serenity. Crisantha offers buyers double-storey linked homes, packed and parcelled with urban amenities and facilities.

To provide an ageing population with not just serenity, but a peace of mind, each unit in Crisantha comes equipped with boom gate access, 24-hour security and a voice intercom system connected to the guardhouse in case of any emergency.



- RESORT HOMES - CRISANTHA

Show Unit Open For Viewing

The essence of Resort Homes lies in its perfect fusion of a retreat inspired lifestyle with a thorough philosophy of mindful living. Generous landscape architecture combines with breathable spatial design to deliver a countryside home of optimal livability.



Type B
Artist's Impression

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24' x 70' / Built-up Area 2,863 sq.ft.

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Matrix Gallery @ d'Tempat
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Nurturing Environments, Enriching Lives.



'The Happiness Index is a measurement of a population's well-being, including health, mental and physical well-being,' said the Town and County Planning Department (PlanMalaysia).

Next stop: Happiness

It's nearly impossible to plan for the perfect state of happiness; it's even more otherworldly to consider that happiness can be everlasting. However, the pursuit of happiness will always be the strive and thrive within human nature.

Seremban has not only won its city-status, giving the once township infinite potential for economic growth, but it is also a city that gets one step closer in obtaining long-term joy.

For more details on
Ervina @ Ara Sendayan (Precinct 2) or
Crisantha @ Resort Homes,
visit www.arasendayan.com.my
and www.resorthomes.com.my, respectively.

ERVINA

2-STOREY SEMI-D



Artist's Impression

A RESIDENTIAL ENCLAVE WITH VIEWS TO BEHOLD

A verdant retreat set to astonishing hilltop sceneries — welcome to Ervina, a place where the luxuries of life come together in a tranquil environment to bring you an exclusive living experience.

A LUXURY HILLTOP RESIDENCE

46 Freehold Semi-D Units Lot Sizes from 45' x 85' From 3,960 sq. ft. to 5,120 sq. ft.

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Ara Sendayan 2 - Ervina Ara Sendayan 2 • No. Lesen Pemaju : 7164-43/01-2022/003(L) • Tempoh Sah : 07/01/2020 - 06/01/2022 • No. Permit Iklan : 7164-43/01-2022/003(P) • Tempoh Sah : 07/01/2020 - 06/01/2022 • Hakmilik Tanah : Kekal • Bebanan Tanah : Tiada • Pelan Bangunan Diluluskan oleh : Majlis Perbandaran Nilai • No. Rujukan : MPN 431/1/56/2018/5(13) • Tarikh Dijangka Siap : Oktober 2021 • Ervina (RBDT-A) - 26 Unit, RM 1,685,888.00 (Min) - RM 2,335,008 (Max) • Ervina (RBDT-B) - 18 Unit, RM 1,994,888.00 (Min) - RM 2,293,608.00 (Max) • Ervina (RBDT-C1) - 1 Unit, RM 2,350,488.00 • Ervina (RBDT-C2) - 1 Unit, RM 2,451,128.00 • Sekatan-Sekatan Kepentingan : Tanah yang diperolehi ini tidak boleh dipindahmilik, dipajak, digadai melainkan dengan kebenaran bertulis daripada Pihak Berkuasa Negeri. • All renderings contained in this advertisement are artist's impressions only. The information contained herein is subject to change without notification as may be required by the relevant authorities or developer's project consultant. Whilst every care is taken in providing this information, the owner, developer and manager cannot be held responsible for any variations. For avoidance of doubt on the specifications, please always refer to the Sales and Purchase Agreement.

The New Face of Hospitality

Jean-Michel Kok or JM as he prefers to be called, joined Matrix Concepts Hospitality team on 18 February 2020 as Head of Hospitality, overseeing d'Tempat Country Club and d'Sora Boutique Business Hotel.

His two decades of vast experience with many established brands and hotels such as St Regis, Tibet; Starwood Hotels and Marriotts' W Hotels across China, has given him an insight on how he intends to improve the hospitality business within the group.

'My goal is to define d'Tempat as a destination of value – with international standards where all business, leisure and entertainment experiences are rolled in at only one fantastic place.

'I go by my motto of DO the RIGHT Things, DO Things RIGHT and DO our BEST!' JM enthused as he walked around the club.



Mr. Jean-Michel Kok
Head of Hospitality



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Scholarships for SPM and IGCSE are now open.

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Matrix has improved my self-confidence - I am determined to work harder to achieve success.



Lim Ting En, 2020.

Our day and boarding school has everything you need on one campus, in Seremban, Malaysia.

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Your Money Matters\$ Matter!

Financial management is more than just thrifty spending; it's knowing what you're spending on, how to spend moving forward and where to save in order to ride through recessive times.

As governments worldwide rush to reopen their respective economies following the coronavirus pandemic that put markets at a pause, the likelihood of countries entering a recession is imminent. Despite the Malaysian government's effort to lessen the impact of having businesses close during the Movement Control Order (MCO) in order to flatten the curve of the virus spread, the dip in economic activities still resulted in recessive production, affecting everything from income, employment rate, production and sales.

Even with the government initiatives to offer stimulus and cash assistance to its citizens, the unemployment rate is expected to rise to 5.3% for May 2020 as compared to 5.0% in April 2020 as per the Ministry of Finance.

Referring to the report in Global Economic Prospects June 2020 (World Bank Group), the Minister of Finance, YB Senator Dato' Sri Tengku Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz stated that Malaysia is acknowledged as among the countries that have implemented extraordinary economic support packages.

However, he mentioned that it is important to recognise that Malaysia is not out of the woods yet.

Therefore, Malaysians must be extra cautious in their spending and money matters especially their investment portfolios too.

However, there is light at the other side of the tunnel as recession is temporary.

For most households, it is vital to do as companies have done: reassess existing expenditure and budgeting in order to ride through the recession.

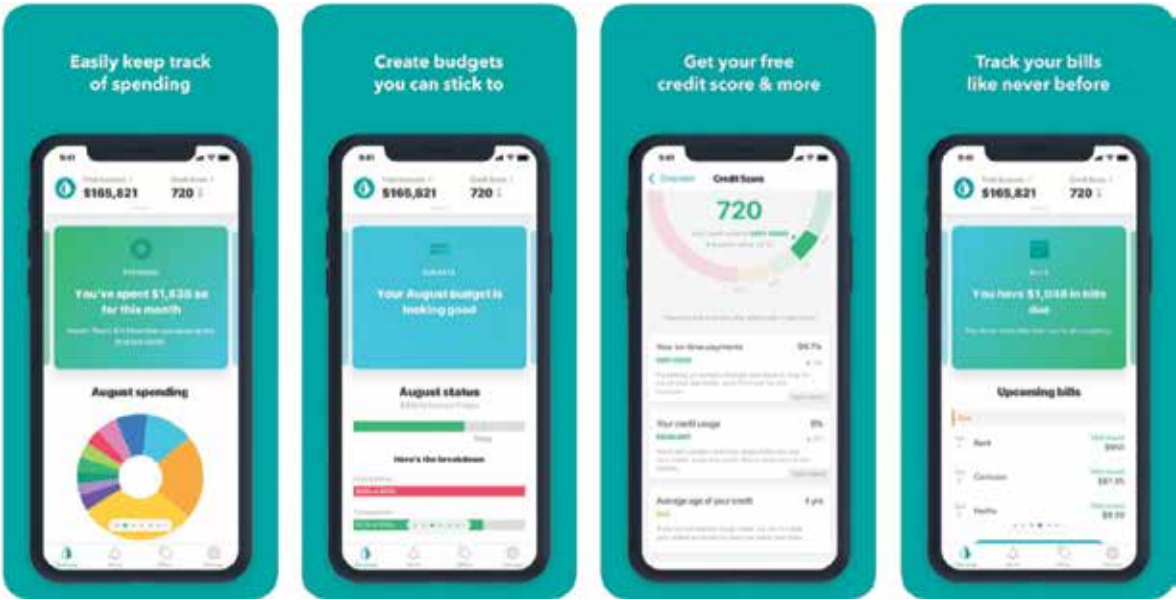


Photo credit: Spende

Track spending

In order to know how to save, one must know where one spends. This may sound easy for auditors and accountants, but for the average folks who do not dabble into spreadsheets day in and day out, the whole numbering format can be perplexing — not to mention time consuming. Thankfully, there are mobile applications that help to do away with micro-formatting for a seamless one-view interface to help.

For most households, it is vital to do as companies have done: reassess existing expenditure and budgeting in order to ride through the recession.

A few notable budgeting apps that are accessible in Malaysia include Spende, Wallet, Goodbudget, Fast Budget and Bank Negara Malaysia's very own BNM My Tabung. Some debit cards such as BigPay has its own mobile application which tracks spending and bill payments, further providing a breakdown of expenditures by categories.

The benefits of using a mobile app to track spendings are aplenty, but mainly so that one can set saving goals, establish monthly spending budget, differentiate between necessities and luxuries, and prioritise payments. Lastly, with monthly commitments and active loans, it's important to see if any hidden charges are added. Mobile apps that are loading account data in real-time alerts you to unusual activities and/or charges gone incognito so that you may take immediate action to rectify.



Shop discounts and generic brands

Whether you are doing your shopping on or off-line, shop with coupons, promo codes or when stores are having steep discounts. Most brand-designated stores listed with e-Commerce platforms launches one-day only storewide discounts in order to boost sales to meet closing targets, which is an apt time to save on spendings, too. In order not to miss the online clearance, set an alert for the brand or store so that you can be prompted upon roll out.

Supermarkets' memberships are worth considering, as a majority of retailers have two listed prices: retail and members-only. Retail designated memberships usually have a small sign-up fee, but the rewards include points collection, cash vouchers and promotional pricing. The short term savings might seem meagre, but accumulated through a year of purchasing necessities, the accumulation for an average household would be in the mid-hundreds.

Making some daily swaps will also help on the saving front. For example, instead of spending that RM12 on a Grande Latte at Starbucks, opt for a 3-in-1 coffee sachet, brewed easily at home or in the office with hot water and only costing about 50 sen per mug. And it doesn't even skim off the caffeine to drive your day forward.



Every little bit counts! For the first time in Buletin Matrix's history, we are collaborating with our partners to provide steep discounts and vouchers to our readers.

Flip to page 59 and hesitate naught to use any and/or all of the offerings freely.

Say you pay a visit to Starbucks for your coffee about three times a week.



That three Grande Lattes are the equivalent of 72 sachets of 3-in-1 coffee within a single week. Your savings in ringgit spent with this simple swap? **RM1,794 a year!**

And with 3-in-1 sachets, you can enjoy coffee everyday and not just when you can afford it!



Cuti Cuti Malaysia

Travel is a luxury ticket item and can be costly, especially for households. With the international borders still currently closed to travel, families can consider traveling within Malaysia. The great states of Malaysia have many of its own unique flair, including pristine beaches, nature hikes, boating trips and camping — all of which costs little money and are convenient to get to.

A short drive to the east coast of Peninsula Malaysia will get you close to the South China Sea, which is known for its rich marine life, clear waters and beautiful sandy beaches. Going up north and crossing the Penang Bridge opens the gates to artistic creations and heritage only found in the state of Penang. Further going south, one can take a quick boat ride from Mersing and end up in the waters of Tioman for all-inclusive, duty-free resort holidays.

For households looking for a quick getaway with little to no cost, locate a public, free camping site and erect a tent for the weekend. It seems to be going back-to-basic, but the basic is a sort of unique novelty in today's busy society.

Reduce Debts

The golden rule when it comes to reducing debt is to stop incurring more debt. A debtor/creditor relationship can only worsen if the debtor actively increases one's commitment. One of the surest, safeguard measure to stop the habit of spending outside of one's means is by stopping the use of credit cards. Living on credit is nothing more than borrowed money that eventually has to make its way back to the creditor — with high interest.


The golden rule when it comes to reducing debt is to stop incurring more debt.

For loans spread across a span of many years, even tackling the surface of the amount can be daunting. A good practice is to make a significant dent to the loaned sum as quickly as possible. Paying the bare minimum will surely max out the loan interest. Whenever possible, pay more than the minimum to retain good credit rating and finish off the loan period sooner rather than later. Most banks offer consultation on repayment schemes and adjustments on interest rate, subject to discussion. Don't hesitate to work out a sensible plan with your respective banker so that you can plan for a debt-free future.

Lastly, create an emergency fund. In case of any financial stagnation, it's important that one keeps reserves to abide by the golden rule.

Every Little Bit Counts

We want to make sure you're able to reap all the benefits of what Matrix Concepts has to offer. That is why we have collaborated with our partners to bring you offers and discounts to help you save while enjoying the best services available.



Basic Health Screening Package

Affordable Quality Healthcare

Blood Test:

- Fasting Blood Sugar
- Fasting Serum Lipid

Health Screening Assessment:

- Blood Pressure
- Body Mass Index (BMI)
- Visual Test

Consultation With:

- Medical Doctor & Dietitian

Cash Paying Only & Package Price Only Applicable During Office Hours

COMPLIMENTARY

Scan Here





Health Screening Package

Affordable Quality Healthcare

Package includes:

1. Consultation By MO & Dietitian
2. Blood Pressure
3. Body Mass Index (BMI)
4. Visual Test
5. Blood test:
 - Blood Grouping
 - Full Blood Count
 - Fasting Blood Sugar
 - Cholesterol Test
 - Kidney Function Test
 - Liver Function Test
 - Urine Analysis
 - Serum Iron Test
 - Hepatitis B Screening
 - Rheumatoid Factor
 - TSH (Thyroid)

Notes:

1. Kindly fast at least 8 hours before the blood test.
2. You may drink plain water only.

~~RM88~~
RM44

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50% OFF

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Affordable Quality Healthcare

Package includes:

1. Procedure Fees
2. CD of Endoscopy
3. Doctors' Professional Fees
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~~RM1500~~
RM1350

Package excludes: Take Home Medicines, Biopsy or Additional Laboratory Tests

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Experience the Matrix Boarding House

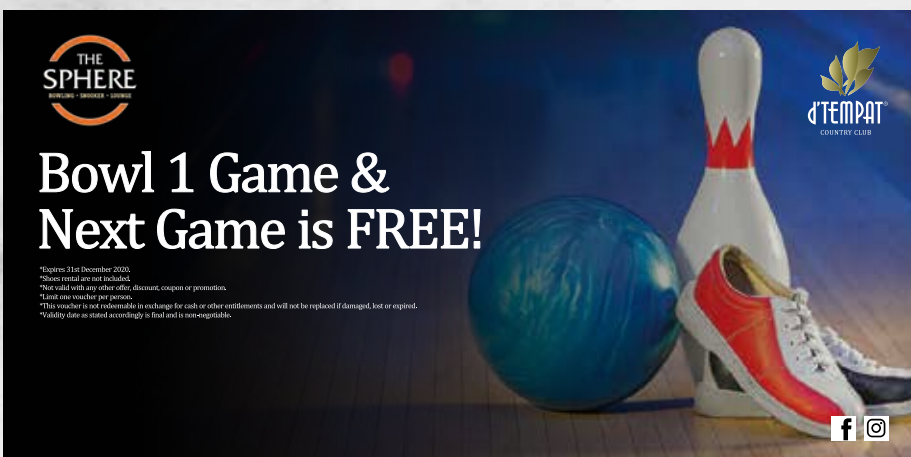
2 DAYS Free Trial

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Terms*

1. Free trial stay is dependent on the availability of rooms on the chosen date
2. Arrangements must be made 2 weeks in advance
3. Not applicable during school or public holidays
4. Limited to one voucher per person and new student only
5. This voucher is not redeemable in exchange for cash or other entitlements
6. Expires 31 December 2020. Validity date as stated is final and non-negotiable





Bowl 1 Game & Next Game is FREE!

matrixschools.edu.my/virtualtour

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6. Validity date as stated accordingly is final and is non-negotiable.





Private School

Worth up to **RM3,000** when you enrol your child

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matrixschools.edu.my/virtualtour

Terms*

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2. Not valid with other coupon/ offers
3. Limited to one voucher per person and new student only
4. This voucher is not redeemable in exchange for cash or other entitlements
5. Expires 31 December 2020. Validity date as stated accordingly is final and non-negotiable





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GET FREE ONE CUP OF with any meal purchased.

Valid thru end of December 2020

matrixschools.edu.my/virtualtour

Terms*

1. Expires 31st December 2020. Available for any purchases at Jigger & Shaker & Garden Terrace only.
2. Voucher can only be redeemed at one time & at ONE of the outlets above.
3. Not valid with any other offer, discount, coupon or promotion.
4. Limit one voucher per person.
5. This voucher is not redeemable in exchange for cash or other entitlements and will not be replaced if damaged, lost or expired.
6. Validity date as stated accordingly is final and is non-negotiable.





Early Years

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on archery game (Normal Price RM20.00)

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4. This voucher is not redeemable in exchange for cash or other entitlements and will not be replaced if damaged, lost or expired.
5. Validity date as stated accordingly is final and is non-negotiable.





International School

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4. *20% F&B voucher





Alternative e-Learning Platforms for Your Kiddies

Whether online learning is the new normal or not, exploring the web for lesson plans can help parents and children gain more world-wide knowledge.

Since the stay-at-home order, many parents have turned into teachers, fulfilling the requirements issued by the Ministry of Education which led to a gap in actual 'learning' for youths who want to stay ahead when the school sector reopens. From pre-schoolers and kindergarteners to primary and into secondary, young Malaysians and their respective parents battle learning online while keeping up with new materials which parents can only remember so much of from their own schooling days.

Luckily, in the age of digital adaptation, a lot of conventional institutions as well as media corporations have stepped up to the plate, designing e-Learning platforms for the public globally in order to aid students and parent-teachers during this transitional period. Let's take a look at some of the platforms offering comprehensive online learning management systems (LMS) that are engaging, innovative and effective.

PBS Kids (www.pbskids.org)

A beloved children-focused television programme created in the United States, Public Broadcasting Service has become a household name for families with young children since 1993. PBS Kids was separately launched in 1999 and in 2017, the channel made a push to online, digitising most of its programmes and creating an interactive learning platform for youths.

Without any registration process, kids can log into pbskids.org to access an array of learning games. Categorised by more than 30 topics and subjects, young users can go on an adventure with Sesame Street characters, enjoy a story telling session with Clifford the pup, learn basic mathematics and words, among many others. The interactive platform also challenges children on hard topics such as emotional intelligence and critical thinking. Through computer gaming, kids engaged can also learn hand-eye coordination and adapt to the standard keyboard at an earlier age.



Photo credit: PBS Kids

Khan Academy (khanacademy.org)

Khan Academy's specialised curricula were designed for homeschooling. Its' platform has been used by homeschooling parents for years. With the stay-at-home order globally, Khan Academy expanded its resources to include a daily schedule of programmes/lectures and lessons. Mainly specialised in mathematics and science, levels range from early years into prep tests for college entrance.

This year, Khan Academy inched into covering social studies, history and English; however, their lessons are not as expansive and thorough as its original core. The online school is fully non-profit and teachers that upload lesson plans are rated and ranked, with their credentials posted onto their profiles. Registration requires parental authorisation and lesson plans can be fully customised according to year, grade and interest.



Bitesize BBC (bbc.co.uk/bitesize)

Veteran news anchor and renowned natural historian Sir David Attenborough announced that he would be joining Bitesize BBC to release a series of online Geography lessons during the fight against the pandemic. Bitesize was then opened to the public, free of charge with a wide range of classroom style videos on specific topics. Unfortunately in Malaysia, Bitesize is not yet accessible; however, this small bout can be easily solved with a VPN subscription.

Bitesize was first launched in the United Kingdom in 1998, covering subjects relevant from Year 1 to 17. Today, the platform has high-definition videos uploaded by professionals in their respective fields for a more in-depth and thorough coverage of a particular subject. Further giving Bitesize more credibility for its e-learning efficacy, all lesson plans are finished off with exams

Eduwebtv (eduwebtv.moe.edu.my)

Developed and operated by the Educational Technology Division within the Ministry of Education Malaysia, the broadcasting network has recently gone online to distribute its content for free to students and teachers. The learning content features students and teachers in a classroom set-up that views more like a webinar and YouTube personality than lectures.

During the MCO period, the platform has also served to inform the community of news and measures taken to fight the pandemic. The updates include news from public officials, cabinet members and advice from specialists. The primary language for Eduwebtv is Bahasa Melayu and a majority of its videos can be found on its designated YouTube channel: eduwebtvmoee.



Matrix Global Schools Celebrate Its Biggest Group Of SPM Top-Scoring Achievers



6 March 2020 – A total of 56 students celebrated their achievements upon receiving their results in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination at Matrix Global Schools (MGS).



Matrix Global Schools SPM student Muhammad Haidel dedicated his 9As to his late father.



Matrix Global Schools Campus Principal Loh Chee Guan; 9As scorer Muhammad Iskandar, 11As scorer Lim Tung En; 9As scorer Muhammad Haidel and Matrix Private School Secondary Academic Coordinator Siow Soak Fean

Amongst the top scorers in Negri Sembilan, the four students from MGS are as stated:-

1. Lim Tung En with 11As
2. Muhammad Haidel Bin Mohd Hazer with 9As
3. Muhammad Iskandar Bin Mohd Azil with 9As
4. Chin Kee Jane with 9As

Another five students scored 8As, and this made history for MGS for having the biggest group of top scoring students in the SPM examination thus far.

On the side note, its student Muhammad Haidel Bin Mohd Hazer who scored 9As dedicated his achievement to his late father who incidentally passed away on the first day of his SPM examination last year.

'It was through sheer determination and will power to prove to my late Dad that I can achieve much and not to worry about me as I will chart my own path in the future. This result is the only gift that I can give him and I promise that I will

continue to do well and take care of my mother as well,' Muhammad Haidel said upon receiving his result papers.

Muhammad Haidel mentioned that it was the support and encouragement of his teachers and counsellors in MGS which also helped him during the said period and to focus on his examinations last year.

Matrix Global Schools achieved a 100% passing rate in last year Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia for almost all the subjects taken by its students especially in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, General Science, Add Maths, Art, Islamic Studies and Moral. More than half of its students scored a distinction for the SPM English paper.

Mr Loh Ghee Juan, MGS Campus Principal congratulated the students and staff, stating that it has been a most noteworthy journey for each and every one in MGS as the outstanding SPM results were the fruits of its academic labour.



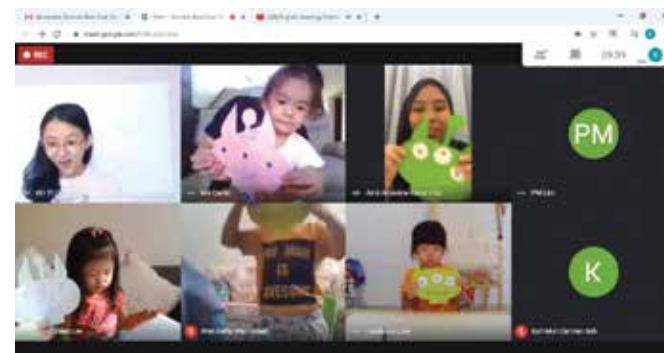
Learning From A Distance

Since 18 March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has caused disruptions and education is one of many.

Many doubts have been raised by parents in the midst of this chaos: How can learning continue? Will my child be able to get the education he/she needs? Everyone was and still is impacted by this - parents, students as well as teachers.

Suddenly, there is a great need to rethink how education can continue in the new normal. Matrix Global Schools (MGS) has remained steadfast in designing and upgrading methods of teaching that allow learning to continue without disruption, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Welcoming Digital Classrooms



Students log into Google Classroom everyday and attend their classes following a time table. On these online classroom platforms, they see messages from their class teachers on what to expect for the day, receive homework submission deadlines and they can even conduct discussions with their fellow classmates.

Each subject has its own virtual space (Google Classroom) and students 'jump in and out' from one subject to the next following a fixed time table. Some classes require students to tune into daily pre-recorded or live video sessions, where teachers go through topics just like they would in an actual physical classroom.

One of the main benefits from this experience is that parents are invited into online classrooms to see what is actually happening in class. Google Classroom functions, such as the weekly reports, showcase a child's upcoming assignments, and a report on what has or has not been submitted. It also allows for a level of transparency never reached before in a traditional educational setup.

Getting Much Needed Physical Exercise



The focus on a holistic education and academic learning is not the only vital part of a student's day. Their physical development is equally important.

The Physical Education (PE) teachers, alongside the student sports leaders, have come up with daily physical exercises for the whole school to participate: Burpees, push-ups or crunches. They challenge their peers to do them all!

There are also Thursday yoga sessions, as well as Friday family challenges to get a student's entire household involved.

Challenges are posted on the MGS Sports Instagram page and students can join in, view it and work it out to their hearts' desire in the comfort of their own home.

Weekly Learning Challenges



Some of our schools, like Matrix Private School and Matrix International School (Primary), pose challenges for students every week.

These challenges vary in concept, and apply to students from all ages. Every student submits something he or she is currently learning about based on a set topic for the week.

If the challenge for the week is learning a new skill, a student will have to document the action and submit it on Google Classroom. This is one way to encourage students to learn on their own at home.

Staying Engaged with Parents

A student's progress is vital and one way is to conduct Parent-Teacher Conferences (PTC) online as well as the Parents' Forum where feedback is gathered to continuously improve the effectiveness of Digital Learning.



A Free Digital Taste of Cambridge A Levels



MGS introduced an online Free Trial Cambridge A-Levels programme for students in Negri Sembilan from 1st June to 31st July 2020 via Google Classroom. Students had the option to register up to 5 subjects maximum.

MGS A-Levels programme will start on 3rd September 2020. Students can register by 28th August 2020, on its website at <https://matrixschools.edu.my/contact-us/online-enquiry/>

Sneezing, Sniffing - Is It Allergies?

by DR. YOGEEETHA RAMANATHAN,
Mawar Medical Centre.



What is Rhinitis?

- Rhinitis is an irritation or inflammation of the nasal mucous membranes.
- It can be caused by pathogens, irritants or allergens.

What is Allergic Rhinitis (AR)?

- It is an overreaction of the immune system (body defence system that often helps in protecting your body from non-infectious inhaled particles) to the allergen.
- Allergens are any substances that can trigger allergic reaction, such as dust, mold and pollen.
- This is the most common form of rhinitis affecting 10 – 30% of the population worldwide.

What is Non-Allergic Rhinitis (NAR)?

- It is a form of rhinitis that does not involve immune system and often has an unknown aetiology, though many triggers have been identified.
- It is a fairly common condition which occurs on its own or it can coexist with Allergic Rhinitis in a substantial number of people making it more complicated.
- Although sometimes considered as a trivial disease because it is not associated with mortality, it can lead to a great financial burden and tremendously impair a person's quality of life, negatively impacting many aspects of life such as sleep, work performance, emotions, socializing and etc.

Who is More Susceptible to Have Non-Allergic Rhinitis?

- It commonly develops after the age of 20 years unlike Allergic Rhinitis which is common in early childhood.
- Studies have shown that it is more common in females than in males.

Do you constantly have runny nose that gets you running to a drug store? Yes, it could be just a cold or maybe you are just convinced it is allergies but there is another condition that's fairly common nowadays and it is NON ALLERGIC RHINITIS (NAR).

- It is not associated with family history of allergies and can occur year-round. So if you have chronic perennial allergic rhinitis it simply means your symptoms aren't seasonal but triggered by something constantly in your environment.

What are The Symptoms of NAR?

- The cardinal symptoms in Allergic Rhinitis is rhinorrhoea (runny nose), sneezing, pruritis (itchiness) of nose, ears, eyes or throat and nasal congestion.
- In non-allergic rhinitis, it simulates Allergic Rhinitis symptoms but the pruritis is less common and without an identifiable allergen.

What are The Triggers for NAR?

- Many non-allergic triggers have been associated with NAR. These include weather changes (temperature and humidity), consumption of alcohol or hot and spicy food, exposure to environmental or occupational irritants such as tobacco smoke, strong odours (eg. perfumes), potent fumes (eg. car exhaust) and dust or smog, use of certain medications and hormonal changes.
- Physical and emotional stress too, can trigger NAR.

How is NAR Diagnosed?

- NAR is common and often overlooked because of its many non-specific symptoms, lack of diagnostic testing and its coexistence with Allergic Rhinitis.
- Diagnosis of NAR is by proper history and physical examination.
- Your doctor may recommend allergy testing to confirm that allergen isn't causing your condition (either skin prick test or blood test).
- Ear Nose Throat (ENT) doctor will also do an endoscope to examine inside your nose to identify presence of any obstructive / structural causes (eg. deviated septum, nasal polyps and etc.) for the symptoms.
- Imaging studies may be required also for further assessment and management.

What is The Treatment For NAR?

- There is no cure for NAR.
- Coping with NAR can be tricky since pinning down a cause for your symptoms can be difficult. You may need to keep a journal to help to identify things that trigger your symptoms so that you can do your best to avoid these triggers.
- Mild Cases: Home treatment & avoiding triggers may be enough.
- Severe Cases: ENT doctor will prescribe medication i.e. anti-histamines & nasal sprays to decrease nasal inflammation and improve your symptoms. Surgery is only considered by itself though only if medications don't improve or control the symptoms or to remove structural or obstructive causes.

What is The Complication of NAR?

- Prolonged inflammation from NAR can cause a variety of other conditions and complications such as middle ear infections, sinusitis and nasal polyps. A small study found NAR to be associated with obstructive sleep apnoea (OSA).

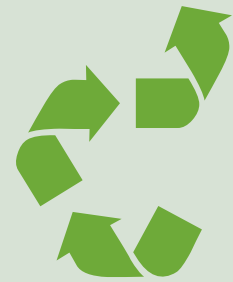
What are the Common Subtypes of Non-Allergic Rhinitis?

Type	Characteristics
Vasomotor Rhinitis (VMR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Known as neurogenic rhinitis• Occurs secondary to disturbed nerves in nose causing vasodilatation & oedema of nasal vasculature• No history of allergies, no signs of infection• Symptoms exacerbated by temperature changes, strong odours, stress, exposure to a variety of irritants
Infectious Rhinitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Usually caused by upper respiratory viral infection• Nasal discharge is clear or mucopurulent, rather than watery

- Other subtypes include: occupational rhinitis, hormonal rhinitis, drug-induced rhinitis, gustatory rhinitis and NAR with Eosinophilia Syndrome (NARES) and Blood Eosinophilia NARES (BENARES).

References:

- 1) American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology. Nonallergic Rhinitis (Vasomotor Rhinitis) Definition. Accessed 8/6/2019.
- 2) Baraniuk J. N. Pathogenic Mechanisms of Idiopathic Non-Allergic Rhinitis. The World Allergy Organization Journal 2009; 2: 106–114.
- 3) Scott Brown Rhinology: Intrinsic Rhinitis.



UPcycling with purpose!

Bottles, bottles everywhere. Take on one or two or all of these upcycling projects to breathe new life to your used collection of glass goods.

In a perfect world, recycling and waste management are seamless and workable. The reality is that the systems are imperfect and more than one-third of the world's glass bottles end up in the same landfill as your weekend dinner. While glass wastes are not as toxic as plastic pollution, the impact it has on the environment is still pertinent. Furthermore, only a small amount of glass bottles are actually cut down to cullet and repurposed to other glass-like products.

The solution to glass waste reduction is not as simple as having the right technology in place; it involves a community of likeminded citizens to either reduce usage of glass goods and/or repurpose for other usage. An option is upcycling.

Upcycling, different from down-cycling which converts a certain type of material into a different component of lesser quality, involves creatively transforming the existing product into some of better quality as an environmental practice. While there are many projects one can do a simple search online to undertake with used glass, here are some that are easy, no qualms and require little to no effort.

The plus is that these projects can be done with kids and kins.



Photo source: homesthetics

Flower Vases

Every room can do with an injection of greens or flower. Long neck bottles such as wine bottles and/or classic soda bottles make for a beautiful flower vase. The key to making it aesthetically appealing is by using flowers with long stems, keeping it simple. Another option is nurture devil's ivies which require only sunlight and water to grow.

Be creative! Give it a vintage look by securing a fixture along its neck against a plywood so it can be be hung on the wall as a feature piece.

Soap Container

Reject a trip to Daiso for a new liquid soap container and convert a used glass bottle into a classy, transparent dispenser by simply adding a twist-on spout. Glass bottles are heavier than plastic and can rest on any countertop stably.



Photo source: bp.blogspot

Spice Jars

Milk glass jars can be converted to spice jars. One only needs a labelling machine, Sharpie or alphabet stickers. The best part about repurposing these jars is its uniformed size, fitting into one cabinet neatly. With this project, it's also possible to shop plastic-free. Bring the jars to any zero-waste store and fill up on spices accordingly.



Photo source: carolynshomework

Candle Holder

Converting a tall glass bottle into a candle holder requires a bit of know-how. Once you've cut the glass into the desired height, you are free to decorate it however you wish. Consider a painting project with kids for a personalised and playful look.



Photo source: homesthetics



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