

# Public brainstorm ideas for MBPJ's 2019 budget

STAR METRO 29/03/2018

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HOUSING, women empowerment, healthcare and transport are among the areas Petaling Jaya MP Maria Chin Abdullah aims to give special attention to.

"I hope to get people's ideas and contributions to formulate short-, mid- and long-term programmes as well as ideas for Parliament advocacy.

"Bringing independent and informed thoughts and actions to focus areas will strengthen civil society and the Government's reform agenda.

"We also want to present a proposal to Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) before the council announces its budget for next year," she said.

Maria invited the public, most of whom helped out as her volunteers during the 14th general election, to a meeting to map out a vision and agenda for the constituency.

About 100 people attended the session.

Maria first briefed attendees on the purpose of the meeting before they were divided into sub-committees to brainstorm ideas for various areas of concern.

"The volunteers had an idea of what was happening when they helped with my GE14 outreach campaigns or as PACAs (polling agents and counting agents).

"I hope to expand this effort as



Participants brainstorming ideas as sub-committees during the meet.

part of participatory democracy. We have seen how people's power can affect change in GE14, so they do not have to wait for their assemblyman or MP just to take action on a matter within their power.

"This is about bringing democracy to the general public by getting them involved in their community."

Maria said the sub-committees would continue to meet and identify key matters that can be resolved within the short-, mid- and long-term period.

"They will also work out programmes, such as those for PPR flats and dedicated walkways.

Some of these can be done at a local level, while others need to be presented at state or federal level.

"The heads of each sub-committee will also need to prioritise in terms of what is best, and decide if we will need to recruit external help or resources to execute a plan," she elaborated.

She hopes her service centre in Jalan Changgai, in the Bukit Gasing state constituency, will be ready after Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

She also plans to set up mobile offices to reach out to constituents in the other two state seats of Taman Medan and Seri Setia.

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Maria Chin Abdullah