



Muhammad Suhaimi Ali painting the portraits of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah in Shah Alam on Sunday. BERNAMA PIC

Mural artist's expression of gratitude to nation's leaders

NSR - 7/7/2020 pg. 14

SHAH ALAM

THE wall on the side of a building in Taman Cahaya Alam, Seksyen U12 here, which used to be vandalised with graffiti, has been replaced with a giant art exhibit featuring the faces of the country's leaders.

Portraits of Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and Health director-general Datuk Dr Noor Hisham Abdullah are among the faces adorning the wall of the building, painted by mural artist Miey Ali.

Initially, Miey Ali, whose real name is Muhammad Suhaimi Ali, 27, only intended to beautify the area. He had not expected his artwork to become a hit on social media.

Helped by his friends, Abdul Hadi Ramli, 27, and Firdaus Nordin, 26, the Terengganu-born artist took two weeks to paint five mural portraits.

At first, he said he only intended to paint the mural portrait of the king as a token of gratitude for the monarch's wisdom in ad-

ressing and resolving the political crisis in February.

"But during the enforcement of the Movement Control Order, we saw other leaders providing updates and planning strategies to curb the spread of Covid-19. So these faces also appeared on the mural.

"This is how my friends and I express our gratitude to leaders and frontliners because when the Covid-19 outbreak first hit the country, they were the ones who had so much to do to make sure the people were safe.

"Not many people know where the mural is since the area is quite hidden, but people have asked me via WhatsApp about the location. I was touched when people as far as Johor came just to snap photos with our painting."

Miey Ali has painted more than 200 murals nationwide since he first dabbled in the art four years ago.

The Fine Arts graduate said he wanted to paint other personalities like the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee, actor and comedian Datuk Aziz Sattar and S. Shamsuddin, if he had the space and time. **Bernama**