MBSJ
GEMILANG BERSAMA

PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 15 FEBRUARI 2024 (KHAMIS)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

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1.	SJ ECHO	• MBSJ RAIDS AND SEALS THREE PREMISES ON VALENTINE'S DAY EVE

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LAIN-LAIN PBT

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UMUM

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MBSJ Raids and Seals Three Premises on Valentine's Day Eve

By **Teoh** - February 14, 2024

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THREE business premises in USJ were raided and sealed by the Subang Jaya City Council enforcement team on Valentine's Day eve for carrying out illicit "sex-for-hire" services and also for carrying their businesses without a license.

A budget hotel located in USJ Sentral 3 in USJ1 was raided by the enforcement team who found it hosting "sex-for-hire" services. Several women and their customers were found in the rooms. Condoms were also recovered from the premises. It is understood the outlet was promoting and carrying out "B2B" services.

Enforcement officers carted away mattresses, pillows and other items from the premises before it was sealed.

Over in Taipan USJ10, a Thai reflexology outlet was also raided for carrying out their business without a license among several other offences. The raiding team carted away equipment and other items from the premises.

SJ ECHO ONLINE
TARIKH: 15 FEBRUARI 2024

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MBSJ Raids and Seals Three Premises on Valentine's Day Eve

By Teoh - February 14, 2024

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A snooker outlet operating at a shopping mall in USJ1 was also raided in the same night for operating without a license. Several customers were playing pool when the raiding team arrived. The outlet was sealed and items from the business were also seized by the raiding party.

SJ ECHO ONLINE

TARIKH: 15 FEBRUARI 2024

LAWATAN bersama para pelajar ke Warung Sahabat, Chow Kit.

(DARI kiri) Pengarah Projek, Mohamad Hanif, Dr. Azahah, Dekan Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan, UKM, Prof. Dr. Kadaruddin Aiyub, Unit Integriti MBSJ, Herman, dan Timbalan Pengarah Projek, Ramadan Mubarak semasa program Advokasi kesedaran HIV/AIDS di Kuala Lumpur, baru-baru ini.

UM 15/2 (MBSJ)

Kurangkan stigma, diskriminasi terhadap penghidap HIV, AIDS

Oleh INTAN SUHANA CHE OMAR
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PROGRAM advokasi dan kesedaran yang dianjurkan oleh UKM, MBSJ dan PKRM di Selangor, baru-baru ini.

SEBUT sahaja penyakit HIV atau AIDS, pasti ramai yang gerun.

Tidak kurang juga yang mula menunjukkan reaksi negatif kerana penyakit ini sering kali dikaitkan dengan aktiviti tidak bermoral seperti penyalahgunaan dadah, seks bebas dan sebagainya.

Namun, tugas menghukum bukan terletak di tangan anggota masyarakat.

Sebaliknya, mereka ini perlu diberi sokongan untuk menerima rawatan kerana ia bukan sahaja melibatkan diri mereka sendiri malah keluarga mereka.

Pensyarah Pusat Kajian Psikologi dan Kesejahteraan Manusia (Psitra), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Dr. Azahah Abu Hassan Shaari berkata, perbincangan isu ini boleh dianggap kritikal kerana stigma negatif dan diskriminasi hanya akan memburukkan keadaan pesakit dan keluarga.

Negativiti yang diterima akan menyebabkan mereka ini mengelak untuk menjalani ujian saringan serta mendapatkan rawatan.

"Advokasi kesedaran dan pemerkasaan HIV dan AIDS di Malaysia adalah satu isu yang kritikal disebabkan oleh pelbagai faktor termasuk kurangnya pengetahuan yang tepat mengenai jangkitan dan kaedah pencegahan dalam kalangan masyarakat.

"Stigma dan diskriminasi berkaitan HIV dan AIDS akan menghalang individu daripada menjalani ujian saringan, mendapatkan rawatan, serta perkhidmatan sokongan," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Justeru, UKM melalui Psitra menjalinkan kerjasama dengan Persatuan Kesejahteraan Rakyat Malaysia (PKRM) dan Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ) menganjurkan Program Advokasi Kesedaran dan Pemerkasaan HIV dan AIDS Rakyat Malaysia.

Ia bertujuan bagi meningkatkan pemahaman masyarakat tentang penyakit itu, seterusnya mengurangkan stigma dan diskriminasi terhadap penghidap atau individu yang hidup dengan penyakit ini.

Program itu juga turut melibatkan pelajar-pelajar kerja sosial di Fakulti Sains Sosial dan Kemanusiaan (FSSK), UKM.

PELUANG MANDIRI

Tambah Dr. Azahah, program yang mendapat tajaan geran daripada PKRM itu dapat membantu penghidap dan keluarga untuk mandiri dan tidak merasa dipinggirkan masyarakat.

"Pentingnya kurangkan stigma supaya mereka yang hidup dgn HIV dapat berdikakari dan berjaya tanpa merasa dipinggirkan dan terasing.

"Ia juga akan membuatkan mereka pergi dapatkan rawatan kesihatan di hospital tanpa rasa ragu-ragu, terutamanya jika mereka mempunyai anak yang juga hidup dengan HIV.

"Juga supaya keluarga dapat memberikan sokongan kepada mereka," ujarnya lagi.

Selain itu, katanya yang juga Ketua Projek, faktor budaya dan masyarakat turut memainkan peranan dalam membentuk sikap dan persepsi terhadap penyakit berkenaan.

Kurangnya kefahaman tentang langkah pencegahan menjadikan ramai yang menyisihkan golongan tersebut.

Kebiasannya mereka mula menjauhkan diri dan kurang memberikan sokongan kepada pesakit dan keluarga.

"Penglibatan komuniti, termasuk kerjasama di antara UKM, PKRM, MBSJ, Yayasan Amal Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur AIDS Service Society, dan PERNIM merupakan asas kepada kejayaan program kesedaran dan advokasi HIV.

"Terutamanya dalam kalangan pelajar Program Kerja Sosial di PSITRA, FSSK, UKM," jelasnya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Projek, Mohamad Hanif Mohamad Jani berkata, program sedemikian telah membuka matanya selain memberi ilmu dan pengalaman bermanfaat.

"Daripada projek ini, saya dapat simpulkan, ia telah memberi ilmu serta pengalaman yang amat bermanfaat dan pastinya satu kesedaran kepada saya sejajar dengan pandangan Abraham Maslow berkaitan kehidupan manusia.

"Mulai saat ini, marilah kita hidup dengan penuh kebahagiaan dengan sistem sosial kita.

"Raikan kepelbagaian dan hidup dengan penuh kasih sayang tanpa ada diskriminasi kepada persekitaran kerana setiap manusia mempunyai banyak pengalaman yang boleh dijadikan pedoman dan sempadan," katanya yang juga Pelajar Kerja Sosial UKM.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

vm 15/2

Struktur baharu gaji penjawat awam diumum dalam Belanjawan 2025

Oleh JUANI MUNIR ABU BAKAR
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PETALING JAYA: Keputusan penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji 1.7 juta penjawat awam akan dibentangkan dalam Belanjawan 2025 yang dijangka Oktober tahun ini.

Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam memaklumkan, cadangan penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji penjawat awam dijangka dimuktamad dan dibentangkan dalam Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri selewat-lewatnya awal suku kedua tahun ini untuk kelulusan.

Bagaimanapun kata JPA, penjawat awam di segenap lapisan perkhidmatan masih boleh mengemukakan cadangan penambahbaikan sistem saraan sedia ada meliputi segala aspek perkhidmatan melalui portal semakan saraan dilancarkan sejak 7 Ogos 2023 di pautan *semakansaraan.jpa.gov.my* sebelum 1 Mac ini.

"Cadangan penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji penjawat awam dijangka dimuktamad dan dibentangkan dalam Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri selewat-lewatnya pada awal suku kedua tahun ini untuk kelulusan.

"Keputusan ini dijangka diumumkan pada pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 pada tahun ini," katanya dalam kenyataan semalam.

Berdasarkan takwim Dewan Rakyat, pembentangan Rang Undang-Undang Perbekalan atau Belanjawan 2025 akan dibuat Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim selaku Menteri Kewangan pada 11 Oktober 2024.

Semalam, Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali berkata, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam kini dalam peringkat akhir bagi kajian pelaksanaan skim pencen penjawat awam (SSPA) sebelum ia dibawa ke Jemaah Menteri untuk dimuktamadkan.

Beliau berkata, buat masa ini, tiada sebarang keputusan muktamad diambil berhubung pelaksanaan skim pencen itu, termasuk untuk menggantikannya dengan kaedah lain.

Kata beliau, ketika ini, Suruhanjaya Perkhidmatan Awam diberikan peruntukan untuk melantik penjawat awam baharu secara kontrak dahulu mungkin bagi tempoh setahun atau setahun setengah.

Dalam pada itu, Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam memaklumkan, Perdana Menteri telah mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam Bilangan 2/2024 kelmarin yang turut dihadiri Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

Katanya, mesyuarat tersebut membincang dan menimbang inisiatif-inisiatif penambahbaikan dalam Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam terutama berkaitan dengan aspek meningkatkan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam.

"Penambahbaikan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam adalah salah satu fokus dalam pemerkasaan modal insan perkhidmatan awam untuk memangkin peningkatan produktiviti penjawat awam bagi merealisasikan aspirasi Malaysia Madani," katanya.

Menurut JPA, Perdana Menteri turut memberi penekanan kepada elemen-elemen pembaharuan perkhidmatan awam seperti pendigitalan sistem perkhidmatan dan kerjasama strategik yang holistik.

"Pendekatan *Whole-of-Nation* bagi memacu peningkatan kecekapan, keberkesanan dan profesionalisme perkhidmatan awam dalam memberi perkhidmatan terbaik kepada rakyat serta negara," katanya.

HASIL kajian penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji penjawat awam dijangka dibentangkan dalam Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri selewat-lewatnya awal suku kedua tahun ini sebelum diumumkan dalam Belanjawan 2025.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Prestasi ekonomi Malaysia 2023 masih baik dibanding negara ASEAN

BARJOYAI BARDAI

KITA semua sedang menunggu pengumuman tentang kadar pertumbuhan ekonomi yang dicapai pada 2023. Ramai penganalisa antarabangsa meletakkan angka 3.4 hingga 3.8 peratus sebagai kadar pertumbuhan sebenar pada 2023. Ini mungkin mengecewakan setengah pihak. Namun ia merupakan satu realiti berasaskan apa yang telah dan sedang berlaku dalam ekonomi dunia dan Malaysia.

Mulai suku 2021, ekonomi Malaysia berkembang melebihi 3.6 peratus dan mencapai tahap 3.1 peratus untuk keseluruhan tahun tersebut. Malaysia berjaya keluar dari kegawatan ekonomi yang melanda negara lebih 15 bulan sejak Mac 2020.

Bila kita menamatkan tempoh penutupan ekonomi, ekonomi Malaysia mula tumbuh dengan pesat. Tahun 2022 merupakan tahun pemulihan yang pesat menunjukkan Malaysia mencapai tahap 8.7 peratus pertumbuhan.

Tahun 2023 sepatutnya merupakan lonjakan mengikut arah pusingan ekonomi yang menaik. Bagaimanapun, cabaran antarabangsa dengan kesan peperangan di Ukraine dan ekonomi Amerika Syarikat (AS) dan Eropah yang agak lemah menyebabkan eksport menurun dengan banyak walaupun import juga menurun.

Malaysia menunjukkan prestasi yang masih baik berbanding dengan negara jiran di ASEAN dan kebanyakan negara di dunia. Walaupun pertumbuhan agak lemah di suku kedua 2023 pada 2.9 peratus, namun ia meningkat menjadi 3.4 peratus di suku keempat 2023.

2024 dijangka akan merupakan satu lagi tahun yang mencabar bagi ekonomi Malaysia walaupun ramai penganalisa masih mempercayai bahawa prestasi ekonomi akan lebih baik dari 2023.

Angka eksport masih lagi menurun. Indeks perindustrian juga menurun. Ini adalah kesan dari penurunan permintaan global khususnya ke atas keluaran elektrikal dan elektronik - khususnya semikonduktor (walaupun ada bayangan peningkatan permintaan dari Eropah).

KESELAMATAN makanan perlu segera diisytiharkan sebagai sebuah industri baharu untuk menampung keperluan tempatan dan meningkatkan eksport. – UTUSAN/SADDAM YUSOFF

Bagaimanapun Malaysia masih menunjukkan arah peningkatan dalam Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) berasaskan pada arus pusingan ekonomi yang berlaku di setiap 10 tahun. KDNK di jangka akan terus menaik sehingga 2026 sekurang-kurangnya. Selepas itu ekonomi Malaysia dijangka akan mencapai puncak dan ia akan mula menurun untuk empat hingga lima tahun selanjutnya berasaskan trend pusingan ekonomi normal dunia yang telah berlaku sejak beribu tahun dan dibuktikan berasaskan data statistik oleh Ravi Batra (1990) sejak 1780. Jadi, ekonomi Malaysia masih berpeluang untuk mencatat kadar pertumbuhan melebihi 4 peratus bagi 2024.

Dua sektor penting yang sedang berkembang dengan pesat memacu ekonomi ialah sektor perkhidmatan yang berkembang lebih 7.3 peratus pada 2023 yang meliputi pelancongan, logistik dan rantaian bekalan serta perkhidmatan kewangan.

Dan yang kedua ialah sektor pembinaan yang berkembang lebih 5.5 peratus khususnya pembinaan perumahan swasta dan rumah mampu milik serta kontrak kerajaan di dalam beberapa projek mega.

TINGKAT INDUSTRI

Kerajaan perlu menggiatkan inisiatif bagi melonjakkan lagi kedua sektor di atas dan menonjolkan sektor keselamatan makanan bagi mencapai tahap pertumbuhan yang diharapkan. Keselamatan makanan perlu segera diisytiharkan sebagai sebuah industri baharu untuk menampung keperluan tempatan dan untuk meningkatkan eksport.

Industri padi umpamanya perlu disuntik dengan teknologi dan model pengurusan moden bagi meningkatkan purata hasil menjadi lebih dari 8 hingga 9 tan per hektar. Industri ayam dan telur perlu dipergiatkan melibatkan petani bidang kecil di kampung.

Aktiviti perladangan di negeri maju seperti Selangor perlu segera diubah suai menjadi industri tanaman sayur, buah-buahan, ternakan ikan, kambing dan lembu. Ini akan dilihat sebagai langkah positif mencapai matlamat yang berbilang.

Industri pelancongan perlu dirombak bagi menjadikannya lebih produktif dan mesra pelancong termasuk aspek kualiti perkhidmatan dan kos perkhidmatan. Sasaran 35 juta pelancong pada 2024 akan menyumbang lebih RM140 billion kepada pendapatan negara.

Sektor logistik termasuk ekonomi gig memerlukan perhatian khusus untuk membantu melonjakkan permintaan penggunaan umum (persendirian).

Sektor perkhidmatan yang lain agak tergencat dengan pengumuman kenaikan kadar Cukai Jualan dan Perkhidmatan (SST) untuk perkhidmatan, termasuk perkhidmatan logistik, profesional dan perkhidmatan lain. Ini perlu ditangani segera bagi mengelakkan tahap penggunaan untuk perkhidmatan menurun.

Industri pembinaan memerlukan suntikan teknologi seperti pencetakan 3D dan sistem pembinaan rumah mampu milik yang mesra pengguna dengan mensasarkan harga yang benar-benar mesra kumpulan berpendapatan rendah iaitu kurang dari RM100,000. Ini boleh dilakukan jika kerajaan negeri dapat memberikan konsesi khas dalam bayaran premium dan kos pertukaran status dan nama pemilik.

Pertumbuhan ekonomi juga akan dipacu oleh penggunaan awam dan persendirian di satu pihak yang lain. Untuk beberapa tahun kebelakangan ini, penggunaan persendirian memacu pertumbuhan ekonomi negara. Dengan sentimen dan keyakinan yang melonjak selepas keluar dari tempoh 'berkurung', isi rumah galak berbelanja dan ini memacu ekonomi di dalam tempoh tiga tahun yang lepas.

Kini tahap keyakinan pengguna dan sentimen untuk berbelanja menjadi semakin lemah. Ini boleh ditingkatkan lagi dengan meningkatkan keyakinan isi rumah dan pengguna tentang prospek ekonomi Malaysia. Permintaan domestik masih berkembang melebihi 4.8 peratus, memberi harapan cerah untuk membantu memacu pertumbuhan.

Pasaran buruh masih dilihat mengembang dengan kadar pengangguran yang rendah, kurang dari 3.4 peratus. Kadar inflasi juga rendah, kurang dari 1.9 peratus, jauh lebih rendah dari kadar di United Kingdom (UK) (6.7 peratus), Filipina (6.1 peratus), Singapura (4.1 peratus), AS (3.7 peratus) dan Indonesia (2.3 peratus).

Malah ada juga ahli ekonomi yang meramalkan kita sedang menuju ke tahap deflasi semula seperti yang dialami pada 2020. Ini agak jauh kemungkinan berlakunya selagi keyakinan pengguna dapat terus ditingkatkan.

Rumusannya, ekonomi Malaysia dijangka akan terus meningkat untuk tiga hingga empat akan datang. Minat untuk pembelian rumah dan hartanah mula meningkat, budaya membeli makanan secara penghantaran dan makan di luar dijangka akan terus meningkat selain budaya melancong masih kukuh walaupun ia menyerong kepada pelancong luar negara seperti Thailand, Indonesia, Kemboja dan lain-lain.

Pelancongan dalam negeri masih boleh ditingkatkan dengan memujuk kembali pelancong dalam negeri untuk melancong ke banyak destinasi produk pelancongan yang menarik di dalam negara.

PROFESOR Emeritus Dr. Barjoyai Bardai adalah pakar ekonomi dari Universiti Tun Abdul Razak (UNIRAZAK).

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

um 15/2

Asas ekonomi makin kukuh, pakar ekonomi tolak kemungkinan ringgit jatuh ke paras RM5

PETALING JAYA: Asas ekonomi negara yang makin kukuh menyebabkan penganalisis ekonomi menolak kemungkinan ringgit menyusut sehingga RM5 berbanding dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) pada akhir bulan ini, mahupun suku pertama.

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pengarah Program Sarjana Pentadbiran Perniagaan (MBA), Prof. Madya Dr. Ahmed Razman Abdul Latiff berkata, kejatuhan ringgit ketika ini adalah kesan daripada pengukuhan dolar AS.

Katanya, ringgit rendah kerana kadar faedah Rizab Persekutuan (Fed) AS yang masih kekal tinggi pada 5.5 peratus dan juga ekonomi negara China yang agak perlahan menyebabkan kurang sedikit permintaan terhadap barangan eksport negara.

"Jika ringgit terus jatuh, eksport negara akan menjadi lebih kompetitif tetapi kita harus mengurangkan kebergantungan kepada barangan import untuk mengelakkan imbangan dagangan dan akaun semasa kita dari menjadi negatif

"Kejatuhan ringgit boleh mengakibatkan peningkatan harga barangan yang diimport.

"Selain itu, memandangkan makanan ayam majoritinya diimport, kenaikan harga makanan ayam boleh menyumbang kepada kenaikan harga ayam itu sendiri," katanya di sini, semalam.

Mengulas mengenai prestasi Bursa Malaysia pula, beliau berkata, pasaran saham lebih dipengaruhi oleh prestasi syarikat tempatan yang mampu menjanjikan pulangan atas pelaburan seperti yang diharapkan dan juga sentimen pelabur itu sendiri.

"Kemungkinan ringgit yang lemah membolehkan pelabur asing masuk melabur dalam pasaran ekuiti kerana pelaburan mereka menjadi lebih murah

"Saya menjangkakan pasaran saham akan didagangkan sekitar 1,500 hingga 1525 hingga akhir bulan ini," ujarnya.

Semalam, ringgit ditutup lebih rendah berbanding dolar AS pada 4.786/4.784 daripada 4.764/4.768 pada 5 petang, Selasa.

Sementara itu, Bursa Malaysia juga ditutup lebih rendah pada 1529.33, susut 2.04 mata berbanding 1,531.37 ketika ditutup kelmarin.

Kali terakhir Bursa Malaysia melepasi paras 1,530 mata ialah pada 27 September 2022 apabila ditutup 1,532.20 mata.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Firemen fear low water pressure amid scorching weather

Star 15/2 (MBDK)

KLANG: The biggest problem faced during the hot season is low water pressure, according to an assemblyman here.

"That is why the Fire Department goes around with huge water tankers to douse out fires as they don't solely depend on hydrants," said Port Klang assemblyman Azmizam Zaman Huri.

He said some areas in his constituency, such as Telok Gong, used to have low pressure issues, but the problem is being countered by Air Selangor with the installation of new underground pipes.

"Some of the pipes here are about 40 years old and they burst if the water pressure is too high. These pipes are being replaced and are still being replaced."

According to Azmizam, the former Klang Municipal Council, now known as the Royal Klang City Council (MBDK), also makes it a point to go around fire-prone areas during the hot season.

"Their Pantas squad goes around these areas and when a fire is spotted, they put it out immediately. Most of the time, this prevents the fire from spreading," he said.

Second-term Pandamaran assemblyman Tony Leong said some parts of his area are more prone to fire as the structures there are mostly wooden.

"I remember a fire in an open space in Port Klang in 2021 and when the fire engines arrived, the water pressure in the hydrant was low," said Leong.

When he spoke to Air Selangor and the Fire and Rescue Department following the incident, added Leong, he was told the pressure was okay but the pipes were old and some of the hydrants had been vandalised.

"There are some copper parts in the hydrants and these are often stolen, which impacts their (the hydrants') functionality," said Leong.

He hopes the government will allocate more funds so that the low pressure issue can be countered with the replacement of old pipes.

Meanwhile, MBDK Environmental Services Department director Zaireezal Ahmad Zainuddin said the council always cooperates with the Fire and Rescue Department, which is in charge of fire hydrants.

"We always help in the event there is a need," he said.

Not usable: A fire hydrant that has been vandalised. — FAIHAN GHANI/The Star

THE STAR
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Extended deadline for Titiwangsa eatery to vacate leaves sour taste

By FARID WAHAB
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Titiwangsa food court ordered to vacate by Feb 14
But eviction notices removed and business seen operating as usual, claims resident

StarMetro's report on the issue on Feb 9, 2024.

TAMAN Tasik Titiwangsa residents are angry over another extension to an order to vacate issued to an illegal food court in their housing area in Kuala Lumpur.

The operator was supposed to vacate by Feb 14 but has now been given until Feb 29 to do so.

The operator has been served three eviction notices by Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur Land and Mines Office (PTGWP).

The latest notice was issued on Feb 5, and *StarMetro* carried a report on this on Feb 9.

In a statement, PTGWP said the first notice was issued on April 8, 2023, and the second on Jan 4 this year.

It added that an investigation found several structures built illegally on government land including an eatery, workshop, *surau* and office.

A meeting was held to discuss the issue on Feb 9, involving the operator and agencies such as Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL), Federal Territories Islamic Religious Council (MAIWP) and Setiawangsa MP Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad's office.

"Following the meeting, the operator agreed to vacate but asked for extra time to move wares from the site.

"The request was granted with Feb 29 as the new deadline," said PTGWP, adding that the operator was to bear any cost involved.

However, the extension has drawn backlash from residents who want sterner action.

Resident Ng Man Fai said the lack of action despite multiple notices served created an impression of double standards.

"DBKL has carried out many raids on illegal roadside hawkers in nearby Jalan Kuantan but this food court has remained untouched," he added.

Another resident, Wan Hilwanie Ariff, said multiple complaints to DBKL since October 2021 had fallen on deaf ears.

"After several engagements, in October 2023 DBKL finally said the eatery falls under PTGWP's jurisdiction instead," she said.

The issue gained attention after a *StarMetro* report on May 17, 2023, highlighting complaints by residents who were concerned about hygiene, traffic congestion and noise problems caused by the food court, which began operating in 2021.

DBKL had said that the eatery, which was operated by a non-profit group, was built without a development order.

However, the non-profit group, in a follow-up report on Aug 25, 2023, denied it was operating illegally, adding it was negotiating for approval with the authorities.

In a Dec 18 report, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's aide Datuk Azman Abidin said the food court was operating without a licence.

THE STAR
15 FEB 2024

By BAVANI M
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Star 15/2 (DBKL)

Lorong Maarof folk worried over messy project site

Debris, sand from Bangsar infrastructure work pose safety hazard

RESIDENTS near Lorong Maarof, Lorong Maarof 1 and Jalan Maarof in Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur, are worried about hazards posed by ongoing construction work near a road leading to Bangsar LRT station.

The work involves pipe laying, drain upgrades and improvements to public walkways.

Residents said debris was carelessly left by the side of the road near the project site.

A. Selvadurai said, "The debris needs to cleared away and the area should be cordoned off with sandbags."

Bukit Bandaraya residents association advisor Datuk M. Ali said he had received numerous safety-related complaints.

"At night, there are no signs or road construction blinkers to alert motorists and pedestrians.

"We eventually found blinkers buried under sand and dust."

StarMetro found a lot of mess during a visit to the site on Monday.

Signs lay toppled on the ground and traffic construction blinkers, designed to warn of nighttime hazards, were buried under rubble.

The walkway was obstructed by additional construction debris, and newly dug trenches were inadequately covered with planks, posing risks to pedestrians, particularly after dark.

Of greater concern was a mound of sand that had washed into drains and manholes, blocking water flow and potentially leading to flash floods if unaddressed.

"We urge Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to intervene and instruct the contractor to adopt better maintenance practices," Ali said.

In response, a representative from the project contractor, Muhd Hafizuddin, explained that many difficulties were faced transporting sand and debris during weekends due to a DBKL regulation prohibiting lorries from entering residential areas during festivals.

"Our workers are instructed to sweep the area daily to uphold cleanliness," Hafizuddin said, assuring residents that proactive engagement with affected households would be held and that safety protocols would be strictly followed.

The infrastructure project, initiated in June last year, is slated for completion in April.

Ali also raised concerns about an upcoming power cable-laying project for a nearby development, saying that residents were not consulted.

"Lorong Maarof is not suitable for cable laying due to it being a core residential neighbourhood."

He proposed Jalan Maarof as a more suitable alternative road as it was wider, and urged DBKL to hold an engagement session with stakeholders to properly address the matter.

(Above) A loosely covered hole among dangers faced by pedestrians at the construction site.

(From left) Ali and Selvadurai showing where sand is being washed into the drainage system. — Photos: AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

THE STAR
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Star 15/2

By AMANDA LEE
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Paving the way for a better learning experience

Corporates urged to help with repairs and upgrades at schools

SMK Subang Jaya in Jalan SS14/6, Selangor, has taken on a new look following recent infrastructure improvements to its assembly area.

The grounds, previously covered with premix, was damaged by years of water ponding.

The initiative to upgrade the surface with interlocking bricks was made possible with the help of Subang Jaya assemblyman Michelle Ng and Jeffrey Cheah Foundation.

"When there's a need in the community, it is our duty to find corporations that have the ability to sponsor or donate," said Ng.

"When the school first reached out to me about its plight, I suggested writing to Sunway Group to see what could be done."

This, she said, led to Sunway Group's development arm donating surplus materials for the resurfacing project.

"The group's expertise and resources played an integral role in making this project a success, and I would like to thank Sunway Group for its support."

SMK Subang Jaya Parent-Teacher Association president Helmy Izuddin Hashim said funding from corporations would help to further improve other parts of the school, such as the roof, electrical wiring and plumbing.

"I hope Sunway Group or other companies, in the area, will provide funding to help refurbish the school," he said.

(From left) Rafidah, Ng, Razman and Helmy at the launch of the new assembly area. — KAMARUL ARIFFIN/The Star

Ng said SMK Subang Jaya was not the only school in her constituency in need of aid.

"Now we are focusing on refurbishing the canteen at SK SS19, and looking at improvements for school halls in SK Dato' Onn Jaafar, SJKC Tun Tan Cheng Lok and SJKT Tun Sambanthan in USJ 15."

She hoped the infrastructure improvement at the school would be an inspiration for other corporations to help out schools in need to ensure a safer and better learning experience for students.

Sunway Group deputy executive chairman Tan Sri Razman Md Hashim said besides SMK Subang Jaya, the company had helped enhance eight other schools in Malaysia.

"Sunway as a group wants to do well, but we do not want to be a company that does not contribute back to the public," he said.

"We strongly believe that one way of doing well is by doing good."

SMK Subang Jaya headmistress Rafidah Rashid said she was grateful to Ng and the foundation for providing a new surface for the assembly area.

"These interlocking bricks will benefit the students as they no longer have to sit in discomfort during assemblies on wet mornings and other school activities," she said.

The resurfacing project took less than a week to complete and is expected to accommodate the more than 900 SMK Subang Jaya students.

Rafidah said there were also plans to build a new structure above the assembly area to provide shade and cover, and the school was looking for funding.

Students Arissa Faizura Azhar and Natalia Zaharah Mohd Fitri, both 15, agreed that the assembly area was had become more student-friendly.

"Before this, we had to bear with the weather such as heat and water puddles when covering events and school activities for the school's Multimedia Club," Natalia told *StarMetro*.

"Things are now much more comfortable for us," Arissa said.

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15 FEB 2024
Tarikh:

By CHARLES RAMENDRAN
and GERARD GIMINO
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Of fake fire extinguishers, bogus servicing

Many are not up to snuff, while certain contractors are cheating customers

PETALING JAYA: With the dry and hot weather expected to continue until May, concerns have emerged on the country's preparedness against fire-related emergencies.

One chief concern is the serviceability of the tens of thousands of fire hydrants in the country.

Adding fuel to the fire are the sale of sub-standard or even outright fake fire extinguishers that are flooding the market.

While fire hydrants are usually accessible to only firemen, fire extinguishers are often the first line of defence in firefighting and saving property, life and limb.

As such, are all the fire extinguishers being marketed by various parties worthy and fit for emergencies?

A resident of USJ, Subang Jaya, who only wanted to be known as Wendy, told *The Star* that she had purchased two fire extinguishers from an ecommerce website for her area's residents association and was disappointed when both failed on her.

She said it was fortunate that she discovered the fire extinguishers she had acquired were useless in putting out flames during a firefighting demonstration by the Fire and Rescue Department.

Wendy said that during the demonstration, the dry powder in both 6kg fire extinguishers failed to put out a fire.

"I chose to buy from the ecommerce merchant since they sold many other hardware and household items.

"It was also convenient as it was delivered to my doorstep. When I complained to the seller, they were very irresponsible and refused to give me a refund. My advice is to never buy cheap fire extinguishers sold by unauthorised sellers," she said.

Fire and Rescue Department director-general Datuk Nor Hisham Mohammad said those purchasing fire extinguishers online should look for the Sirim Bhd verification and the manufacturer's information.

He explained that fire extinguishers also have to abide by the MS 1539 Malaysian standard.

"The list of fire extinguisher manufacturers registered with the Fire and Rescue Department can be found on the e-Feis portal," he said when contacted.

Nor Hisham also encouraged households to own at least one fire extinguisher.

"This will allow early action to be taken when small fires break out.

"The Fire and Rescue Department is also organising a campaign encouraging the public to own at least one fire extinguisher at home," he added.

Nor Hisham said dry powder fire extinguishers are the most suitable to be used at home, as they can put out all classes of fire.

He added that there are several types of extinguishers, with each type being able to extinguish different classes of fire.

In general, there are six classes of fires – A, B, C, D, E and F.

Fire extinguishers are also labelled with symbols or letters, indicating the types of fires they can put out.

A is for fires from combustible materials like wood, paper and fabric; B for fires involving flammable liquids like oil, petrol, varnish, cooking gas and paint; C for flammable gases; D for metal gas; E for fires involving electrical appliances; and F for fires involving cooking oil or fats.

To be certain of their serviceability, fire extinguishers should have a certificate of inspection issued by the Fire and Rescue Department attached to it, said Roy Chua, a fire extinguisher dealer and maintenance contractor.

"The certificate has a QR code that gives details of the owner and the servicing done on the cylinder. Regular maintenance of fire extinguishers is crucial.

"Over time, the dry powder can 'cake up' or harden. The fire extinguisher can also lose pressure. All these can render a fire extinguisher useless during a fire emergency," he said.

Apart from sub-standard fire extinguishers flooding the market, Chua said there are also unscrupulous maintenance contractors who offer servicing at cheap prices but do not carry out the necessary work required.

"I have heard of some bad experiences my clients had undergone with other contractors. In some cases, these irresponsible individuals take the fire extinguishers away, supposedly for servicing, and just disappear.

"On other occasions, they return the cylinders with fake Fire and Rescue Department certificates and without carrying out any maintenance.

"The customers will never know until an emergency arises and the fire extinguishers malfunction," said Chua, who is manager of Kuala Lumpur-based PR Fire Service.

He said every household should have a fire extinguisher as it can save one from a deadly situation.

"Always buy from reputable companies that specialise in firefighting equipment and do not be 'penny wise, pound foolish.' It is a small price to pay for our safety.

"It is best to own at least two fire extinguishers, one for the front and another for the back of a house, or a third one or more for upper floors," Chua told *The Star*.

On Tuesday, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming said the Fire and Rescue Department has been instructed to carry out a massive operation to inspect and ensure the 400,000 fire hydrants in the country are in working order.

He stressed that water pressure from hydrants should also be adequate to help douse fires, especially during the current dry and hot weather.

Nga said scheduled checks are being carried out by the 337 fire stations nationwide, but starting today, the efforts must be intensified to make sure that the pressure from the hydrants is adequate.

On Tuesday, the Fire and Rescue Department said a faulty hose reel system had hampered firefighting efforts in a fire that broke out at the Sri Sabah flats in Cheras, Kuala Lumpur, on Sunday.

No casualties were reported but five residential units on the 17th floor of the flats were destroyed in the fire that the department believes was caused by faulty electrical wiring.

FOR MORE:
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THE STAR
15 FEB 2024
Tarikh:

Grasping true gender equality

Star 15/2

Govt keen on widening women's participation in the workforce, says minister

PUTRAJAYA: In its quest to create an inclusive environment for women to thrive in, the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry will focus on reinforcing gender equality.

"Equality does not mean men and women competing or having equal rights and needs only; it is also respecting and helping one another," said its minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

This year's theme for Malaysia's celebration of International Women's Day, "Wanita Dijulang, Negara Gemilang" (Women Elevated, Nation Excels), is aimed at broadening society's views of gender equality, she said at the launch of the theme and logo at the ministry's headquarters here yesterday.

"Women play a crucial role as mothers, heads of families, community leaders, professional community activists and global leaders. The significant contribution of women has made Malaysia a globally recognised country," she added.

The theme, said Nancy, is also to underscore the creation of an inclusive environment for women in the country to thrive in.

"The ministry is dedicated to increasing women's participation at decision-making levels and in the workforce, and improving environments for women's well-being and zero tolerance for violence against women.

"However, women's empowerment is not just the role of the ministry; everyone should play their part too," she said.

Nancy encouraged all to join in the celebration on March 8 and wear purple in tandem with the theme.

Speaking to reporters later, the minister said the Tribunal for Anti-Sexual Harassment has been set up with Klang Sessions Court judge Syafeera Mohd Said being appointed its president.

Nancy added that she is awaiting confirmation for representatives from Sabah and Sarawak for the panel.

Recently, she had said Syafeera will be assisted in the panel by two senior officials of the Attorney General's Chambers: Mohd Nasruddin Mohamad, who will be the deputy president, and Nurul Elida Baharudin, the secretary.

The tribunal will be housed at the ministry here.

"It has been in the works for a long time and this year, the tribunal will be up and running," said Nancy.

The tribunal provides an alternative platform for victims of sexual harassment instead of them taking the matter to the courts and instituting criminal proceedings.

Nancy previously said it would provide cheaper and quicker redress for sexual harassment complaints.

The tribunal is part of the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act passed in Parliament in August 2022.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Civil servants cross border to wed secretly

Star 15/2

NARATHIWAT province in Thailand is the destination of choice for Malaysian civil servants looking to secretly wed a second wife, according to a marriage agent, *Kosmo!* reported.

Nikah (marriage) agent Azrul said he arranges for the marriage of at least one civil servant, including those in senior positions, every month there.

"Many civil servants who chose to marry a second wife in Thailand have the financial means to do so. They normally are in their 40s or 50s, with adult children.

"It's just that they are scared to inform their first wife of their intention to take another spouse, so they choose to do so in Thailand as an alternative to legitimising their second marriage."

The agent, with about 10 years' experience, said many civil servants started using his services after he was referred to by a former client in 2021.

> It's unfair to describe celebrities who make live content on TikTok as beggars, said comedian and actor Azlee Scenario, *Utusan Malaysia* reported.

He said the word "beggar" was commonly used to describe celebrities who have regular live videos on the social media platform and this is uncalled for.

"We make live content to interact with our fans, not to ask for gifts. If they do give gifts, then that is equivalent to our rezeki (livelihood). I have never asked or begged for gifts," he added.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

'MySpike development shows quality of civil servants'

Star 15/2

PUTRAJAYA: The expertise of the Human Resources Ministry in developing the Malaysia Skills Integration Management System (MySpike) reflects the efficiency in its service delivery, says Steven Sim.

The Human Resources Minister, in his speech at the ministry's monthly assembly here, said the workforce is its most valuable asset.

"People used to think that civil servants cannot develop any system on their own.

"So, we (the government) have to appoint contractors.

"In reality, civil servants are implementers, thinkers, and strategic planners. We have these abilities within the civil service.

"We should give them the opportunity," he said.

Sim added that the expertise of ministry's personnel had saved the government RM8mil in expenditure, Bernama reported.

MySpike is a single platform used in the programme accreditation, personnel certification, student registration, assessment verification, and overall certification for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) agencies adopting the Malaysian Skills Certificate System.

To enhance the performance of the ministry, Sim also encouraged its personnel to apply the philosophy of "Ren" and "Li", which are principles rooted in Chinese society, in carrying out their daily tasks.

Quoting the Confucian concept and teaching to improve morality and uphold human ethics, he said "Ren" means love and humanity, while "Li" refers to rituals or propriety.

At the assembly yesterday, he also welcomed the newly appointed secretary-general Datuk Seri Khairul Dzaimee Daud, who joined the ministry on Jan 23.

"Welcome aboard! I was told that despite him being a new appointee, the new secretary-general has been going to the ground (to meet with the staff). I appreciate his dedication," Sim added.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Review of salary structure to be part of Budget 2025

KUALA LUMPUR: The decision on improving the civil service salary structure system is expected to be announced during the tabling of Budget 2025 this year, says the Public Service Department (PSD).

It said that the proposed improvement would be finalised and presented to the Cabinet for approval at the beginning of the second quarter of this year at the latest.

"Civil servants can still submit proposals to improve the existing salary system covering all aspects of service through the remuneration review portal at semakansaraan.jpa.gov.my before March 1, 2024," it said in a statement, reported Bernama.

The PSD said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim chaired the Review of the Public Service Remuneration System main committee meeting on Tuesday, which was also attended by Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

The meeting discussed and deliberated on improvement initiatives within the Review of the Public Service Remuneration System (SSPA), especially concerning boosting the disposable income of public servants.

"Improving the disposable income of civil servants is one of the focuses in enhancing the human capital empowerment of the civil service to increase their productivity in realising Malaysia Madani aspirations," said the department.

It added that Anwar also emphasised elements of civil service reforms such as digitising service systems, holistic strategic cooperation, and the whole-of-nation approach.

This is to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness, and professionalism of the civil service in providing the best service to the people and the country, the PSD said.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Penduduk Malaysia cecah 33.7 juta

SH 14/2

KUALA LUMPUR - Penduduk Malaysia dianggarkan berjumlah 33.7 juta pada suku keempat tahun lepas, meningkat dua peratus berbanding 33 juta bagi tempoh sama tahun sebelumnya.

Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia, Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin berkata, daripada jumlah itu, sebanyak 30.5 juta ialah warganegara, manakala selebihnya bukan warganegara.

"Penduduk lelaki meningkat kepada 17.7 juta daripada 17.2 juta dan perempuan meningkat kepada 16 juta daripada 15.8 juta.

"Secara keseluruhan, nisbah jantina penduduk adalah 110 lelaki bagi setiap 100 perempuan, manakala nisbah jantina bagi penduduk warganegara adalah 103 lelaki bagi setiap 100 perempuan," katanya dalam kenyataan.

Menurut Mohd Uzir, penduduk berumur 0 hingga 14 tahun kekal tidak berubah pada 7.6 juta, sementara penduduk berumur 15 hingga 64 tahun meningkat kepada 23.6 juta daripada 23.1 juta, manakala penduduk berumur 65 tahun dan lebih meningkat kepada 2.5 juta daripada 2.4 juta.

MOHD UZIR

Selain itu, beliau berkata, jumlah kelahiran hidup merekodkan penurunan sebanyak 1.1 peratus iaitu 112,767 kelahiran berbanding 114,067 kelahiran pada suku tahun keempat 2022.

"Bayi lelaki melebihi perempuan dengan 57,894 kelahiran berbanding 54,873 kelahiran. Selangor mencatatkan bilangan kelahiran hidup tertinggi iaitu 20,931 kelahiran manakala jumlah kelahiran hidup terendah dicatatkan Wilayah Persekutuan Labuan iaitu 385 kelahiran.

Menurutnya lagi, sebanyak 48,250 kematian direkodkan pada suku tahun keempat 2023, penurunan sebanyak 4.2 peratus berbanding suku tahun keempat 2022, iaitu bilangan kematian bagi lelaki adalah 27,508 manakala 20,742 kematian bagi perempuan. - *Bernama*

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

JPA masih buka cadangan tambah baik struktur gaji penjawat awam

Keputusan dijangka diumum dalam Belanjawan 2025

KUALA LUMPUR

Keputusan penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji penjawat awam dijangka diumumkan pada pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 tahun ini.

Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) dalam kenyataan pada Rabu, memaklumkan cadangan penambahbaikan itu akan dimuktamad dan dibentangkan dalam Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri selewat-lewatnya pada awal suku kedua tahun ini untuk kelulusan.

"Penjawat awam di segenap lapisan perkhidmatan masih boleh mengemukakan cadangan penambahbaikan sistem saraan sedia ada meliputi segala aspek perkhidmatan melalui portal semakan saraan yang telah dilancarkan sejak 7 Ogos 2023 di pautan *semakansaraan.jpa.gov.my* sebelum 1 Mac 2024," menurut kenyataan itu.

JPA memaklumkan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim pada Selasa mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (JIKSPA) Bilangan 2/2024 yang turut dihadiri Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

Mesyuarat tersebut telah membincang dan menimbang inisiatif penambahbaikan dalam Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) terutama berkaitan dengan aspek meningkatkan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam.

"Penambahbaikan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam merupakan satu daripada fokus dalam pemerkasaan modal insan perkhidmatan awam untuk memangkin peningkatan produktiviti penjawat awam bagi merealisasikan aspirasi Malaysia Madani," menurut kenyataan itu.

FOTO: FACEBOOK JABATAN PERKHIDMATAN AWAM

Anwar berkata sesuatu kepada para pegawai kanan selepas mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam pada Selasa.

Kenyataan itu menyebut, Perdana Menteri turut memberikan penekanan kepada elemen pembaharuan perkhidmatan awam seperti pendigitalan sistem perkhidmatan, kerjasama strategik yang holistik serta pendekatan keseluruhan negara (*whole-of-Nation*).

Kenyataan itu menambah, penambahbaikan struktur gaji itu juga bagi memacu peningkatan kecekapan, keberkesanan dan profesionalisme perkhidmatan awam dalam memberi perkhidmatan terbaik kepada rakyat serta negara.- *Bernama*

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

KOSMO 15/2

Keputusan diumum pada pembentangan Belanjawan 2025

Struktur gaji penjawat awam bakal dimuktamad

Oleh RIDZAUDDIN ROSLAN

PUTRAJAYA – Cadangan penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji penjawat awam dijangka dimuktamad dan dibentangkan dalam Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri selewat-lewatnya awal suku kedua tahun ini untuk kelulusan.

Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) berkata, keputusan itu dijangka diumumkan pada pembentangan Belanjawan 2025.

"Perdana Menteri (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) telah mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (JIKSPA) Bilangan 2/2024 pada 13 Februari yang turut dihadiri Menteri Kewangan II (Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan).

"Mesyuarat tersebut telah membincang dan menimbang inisiatif penambahbaikan dalam Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) terutamanya berkaitan dengan aspek meningkatkan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam," katanya dalam satu kenyataan di sini semalam.

Jelas JPA, penambahbaikan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam adalah antara fokus dalam pemerkasaan modal insan perkhidmatan awam untuk memangkin peningkatan produktiviti kakitangan kerajaan bagi merealisasikan aspirasi Malaysia Madani.

Mengulas lanjut, penjawat awam di segenap lapisan perkhidmatan masih boleh mengemukakan cadangan penambahbaikan sistem saraan sedia ada meliputi segala aspek perkhidmatan.

Katanya, ia boleh disalurkan melalui portal semakan saraan yang telah dilancarkan sejak 7 Ogos tahun lalu di pautan *semakansaraan.jpa.gov.my* sebelum 1 Mac ini.

"Perdana Menteri turut memberi penekanan kepada elemen pembaharuan perkhidmatan awam (*civil service reform*) seperti pendigitalan sistem perkhidmatan, kerjasama strategik yang holistik serta pendekatan *Whole-of-Nation*.

"Ia bagi memacu peningkatan kecekapan, keberkesanan dan profesionalisme perkhidmatan awam dalam memberikan perkhidmatan terbaik kepada rakyat serta negara," jelasnya.

PENJAWAT awam bakal menerima berita gembira selepas cadangan penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji dijangka dimuktamadkan selewat-lewatnya awal suku kedua tahun ini untuk kelulusan. – GAMBAR HIASAN

KOSMO

Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

AHMAD ZAHID (tengah) pada sidang akhbar selepas Majlis Prapeluncuran KEB 2024 di Putrajaya semalam.

kosmo 15/2

Kongres Ekonomi buka peluang kepada semua

PUTRAJAYA – Kongres Ekonomi Bumiputera (KEB) 2024 yang bakal berlangsung pada 29 Februari ini terbuka kepada semua kaum Bumiputera termasuk dari Sabah, Sarawak dan Orang Asli tanpa mengira perbezaan fahaman politik.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi berkata, program yang bakal disertai 3,000 peserta itu bukan sahaja melibatkan Dewan Perniagaan Melayu, namun turut disertai kaum Orang Asli, Iban, Kadasan Dusun dan Dayak.

Katanya, ia mengambil pendekatan 'buta warna' menerusi penganjuran KEB 2024 yang mana penyertaannya terbuka kepada semua termasuk parti pembangkang.

"Penglibatah mereka (Dewan Perniagaan) untuk mengetahui kluster Sabah dan Sarawak bagi meneliti beberapa perincian dan juga program yang disaran sebagai komponen penting dalam pelaksanaan KEB 2024.

"Ia juga akan 'menggali' beberapa aspek teknologi dan peluang baharu dalam bidang yang belum terjangkau di negara ini.

"Kita akan melihat unjuran 10 hingga 20 tahun akan datang dan dibincangkan di peringkat institusi dan agensi diwujudkan sejak pelaksanaan kongres pertama pada 1965," katanya pada Majlis Prapeluncuran KEB2024 di sini semalam.

Majlis prapeluncuran itu dirasmikan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Anwar Ibrahim.

Hadir sama Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof dan Menteri Perladangan dan Komoditi, Datuk Seri Johari Abdul Ghani.

Tambah Zahid yang juga Menteri Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah, resolusi dicapai di dalam kongres itu akan dikemukakan kepada Anwar pada sesi penutup.

"Kita juga mahu melihat bahawa peranan yang diberikan agensi itu dinilai keberkesanannya dan pemerkasaan dilakukan daripada dapatan kajian hasil libat urus," katanya.

KEB 2024 yang diadakan di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya dianjurkan Kementerian Ekonomi dengan kerjasama Kementerian Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah (KKDW).

Kongres itu bertujuan mencadangkan hala tuju serta pendekatan baharu agenda pemerkasaan Bumiputera yang lebih adil, saksama dan inklusif.

KOSMO
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

SELEWENG DUIT IPTS RM1 JUTA

HM 15/2

Bekas penolong pegawai tadbir direman

Kangar: Bekas penolong pegawai tadbir sebuah institusi pengajian tinggi swasta (IPTS) di negeri ini direman tiga hari berhubung penyelewengan hampir RM1 juta wang institusi itu untuk tujuan peribadi.

Perintah reman itu dikeluarkan Majistret Nurshahida Abdul Rahim bermula semalam hingga esok itu bagi membantu siasatan lanjut.

Sumber berkata, suspek berusia 33 tahun adalah salah seorang daripada dua lelaki yang ditahan Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) secara berasingan jam 5.30 petang di pejabat SPRM Kuala Lumpur dan Perlis kelmarin ketika diminta hadir memberi keterangan.

"Kedua-dua suspek dipercayai melakukan kesalahan itu dari 2022 hingga tahun lalu menggunakan akaun peribadinya serta akaun rakan sekerja yang juga suspek utama dalam kes ini sebagai akaun pindahan wang daripada akaun IPTS berkenaan membabitkan jumlah hampir RM1 juta.

"Dianggarkan lebih 50 transaksi dengan purata nilai sekitar RM20,000 hingga RM30,000 sebulan dipindahkan dalam akaun suspek," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pengarah SPRM Negeri Perlis, Suzeliyana Hashim mengesahkan penahanan berkenaan.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Anwar ketika mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (JIKSPA) Bilangan 2/2024, semalam. (Foto FB JPA)

BH 15/2

Penjawat awam boleh syor tambah baik sistem saraan

Cadangan perlu dibuat sebelum 1 Mac dan akan dimuktamad awal suku kedua tahun ini

Kuala Lumpur: Penjawat awam di segenap lapisan perkhidmatan masih boleh mengemukakan cadangan penambahbaikan sistem saraan sedia ada sebelum 1 Mac depan.

Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam (JPA) dalam kenyataan memaklumkan, keputusan penambahbaikan sistem struktur gaji penjawat awam dijangka diumum pada pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 tahun ini.

Katanya, cadangan penambahbaikan akan dimuktamad dan dibentang pada Mesyuarat Jemaah Menteri selewat-lewatnya awal suku kedua tahun ini untuk kelulusan.

"Penjawat awam di segenap lapisan perkhidmatan masih boleh mengemukakan cadangan penambahbaikan sistem saraan sedia ada meliputi segala aspek perkhidmatan melalui portal semakan saraan yang telah dilancarkan sejak 7 Ogos 2023 di pautan semakansaraan.jpa.gov.my sebelum 1 Mac 2024," kata kenyataan itu.

JPA memaklumkan, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, semalam mempengerusikan Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Induk Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (JIKSPA) Bilangan 2/2024 yang turut dihadiri Menteri Kewangan II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

Inisiatif penambahbaikan

Mesyuarat antara lain membincang dan menimbang inisiatif penambahbaikan dalam Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA) terutama berkaitan aspek meningkatkan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam.

"Penambahbaikan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam adalah satu daripada fokus dalam pemerkasaan modal insan perkhidmatan awam untuk memangkin peningkatan produktiviti penjawat awam bagi merealisasikan aspirasi Malaysia MADANI," menurut kenyataan itu.

Kajian SSPA menjadi antara fokus pentadbiran Anwar, selepas pelaksanaan sistem saraan awal tertangguh selepas 12 tahun.

Keluhan berpanjangan penjawat awam berhubung perkara itu diperpanjang Perdana Menteri kepada Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali dan Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam, Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abd Aziz.

Mengakui 12 tahun adalah tempoh panjang, Anwar dilapor memberi jaminan supaya semakan kadar gaji dipercepat.

Kenyataan JPA itu menyebut, Perdana Menteri turut memberi penekanan kepada elemen pembaharuan perkhidmatan awam seperti pendigitalan sistem perkhidmatan, kerjasama strategik yang holistik serta pendekatan keseluruhan negara (*whole-of-Nation*).

Ia bertujuan memacu peningkatan kecekapan, keberkesanan dan profesionalisme perkhidmatan awam dalam memberi perkhidmatan terbaik kepada rakyat serta negara. BERNAMA

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 15 FEB 2024

Kongres Ekonomi Bumiputera terbuka kepada semua

BH 15/2

Putrajaya: Kongres Ekonomi Bumiputera 2024 yang akan berlangsung hujung bulan ini terbuka kepada semua pihak, termasuk parti politik pembangkang.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, berkata kerajaan tidak memandang 'warna politik' jika ia membabitkan isu Bumiputera.

"Kita buta warna dalam soal ekonomi Bumiputera," katanya pada sidang media selepas menghadiri Majlis Pra-Peluncuran Kongres Ekonomi Bumiputera 2024 di sini, semalam.

Majlis yang disempurnakan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim itu turut dihadiri Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof dan Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Kongres Ekonomi Bumiputera 2024 dijadualkan berlangsung pada 29 Februari hingga 2 Mac ini, di Pusat Konvensyen Antarabangsa Putrajaya (PICC).

Anwar bersama Ahmad Zahid, Fadillah dan Mohd Zuki (kiri) pada Majlis Pra-Peluncuran Kongres Ekonomi Bumiputera 2024 di Putrajaya, semalam.

(Foto Mohd Fadli Hamzah/BH)

Kongres terbabit akan mencipta usaha memperkasa Bumiputera dalam soal teknologi baharu dan pelan futuristik untuk generasi akan datang.

Mengulas lanjut, Ahmad Zahid berkata, kongres terbabit akan memberi tumpuan kepada 10 kluster yang diketuai pakar bagi setiap bidang berkenaan.

Katanya, semua hasil libat urus setiap kluster terbabit akan dibentangkan pada hari kongres berlangsung dengan rumusannya akan diserahkan kepada Perdana Menteri.

"Pada hari kongres, pembentangan sesi libat urus akan diadakan yang mana pembentangan dibuat pengerusi setiap kluster dan mereka diberikan masa agak ringkas untuk membentangkannya.

"Kemudian mereka akan mengemukakan resolusi mewakili setiap kluster dan rumusan akan dipersembah kepada Perdana Menteri yang akan menutup kongres pada hari terakhir," katanya.

Beliau berkata, kongres itu turut membabitkan penyertaan Dewan Perniagaan Melayu Malaysia (DPMM), termasuk Dewan Perniagaan dan Perindustrian Kadazan Dusun serta Dewan Perniagaan dan Perindustrian Dayak.

Katanya, pembabitan kedua-dua dewan perniagaan berkenaan yang mengetuai kluster Sosioekonomi Bumiputera Sabah dan Sarawak adalah bagi meneliti beberapa perincian dan saranan program sebagai komponen penting dalam pelaksanaan kongres.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 15 FEB 2024

Govt to build 50 public parks per year

15/2 Sun

IPOH: The Housing and Local Government Ministry aims to build at least 50 public recreational parks each year nationwide with an allocation of about RM500,000 for each, said its minister Nga Kor Ming.

"This is to increase the number of recreational parks to create a more comfortable and safer green environment for people in the surrounding residential areas.

"These public recreational areas are a form of therapy for residents who are currently facing various (levels of) mental stress. When there are parks for them to rest and relax, then it would benefit them," he said after officiating at an event for the development of living environment landscape at Woodlands Park in Bandar Baru Tambun on Tuesday.

Nga also said the ministry has allocated RM10 million for the construction of 22 public recreational parks in Perak, with construction works set to be completed this year.

He added that in a move to involve the local community, the ministry will encourage the public to contribute seeds or saplings for trees, that will then be named after their families. – Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

International Women's Day event on March 8

PUTRAJAYA: The 2024 International Women's Day celebration is scheduled to take place on March 8 at the Sunway Pyramid Convention Centre in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

The event aims to honour women as catalysts for national excellence, aligning with the aspirations of Malaysia Madani.

Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri said the event, themed "Women Exalted, Nation Glorious" will be graced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"It is a day dedicated to acknowledging and promoting the achievements of women across the country, irrespective of their background, ethnicity, language, culture, economic status or even political affiliation.

"Simultaneously, it provides an opportunity for us to observe and assess the accomplishments and status of women, paving the way for strategic planning towards a more empowered and illustrious future for women," she said at the International Women's Day media briefing session yesterday.

She said during the celebration, the ministry will prioritise various key initiatives, with a particular emphasis on enhancing women's involvement at decision-making levels, adding that there will be a strong emphasis on adopting a zero-tolerance approach towards violence against women, augmenting women's engagement in economic activities and enhancing the overall environment to ensure the well-being of women.

"This endeavour requires reinforced efforts, aligning with the agenda of mainstreaming gender equality to create a symbiotic relationship that expands opportunities for inclusivity of women."

Nancy pointed out that the responsibility for advancing the women empowerment agenda does not rest solely on the shoulders of the ministry but rather, all stakeholders are urged to fulfill their respective roles and responsibilities in supporting it.

"Efforts to create a conducive environment to support the government's efforts to achieve 60% female labour force participation should also be focused on," she said, while encouraging people from all walks of life to join the celebration on March 8 by wearing purple attire. – Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Civil service salary review to be announced during Budget 2025 tabling

KUALA LUMPUR: The decision on the civil service salary scheme improvement is expected to be announced during the tabling of the 2025 Budget, said the Public Service Department (PSD).

It said the proposed improvement would be finalised and presented to the Cabinet for approval at the beginning of the second quarter of this year at the latest.

"Civil servants can still submit proposals to improve the existing salary system covering all aspects of service through the remuneration review portal at *semakansaraan.jpa.gov.my* before March 1," the PSD said in a statement yesterday.

15/2 Sun

It said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim chaired a main committee meeting on the Review of the Public Service Remuneration System yesterday, which was also attended by Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

The meeting discussed initiatives to improve the remuneration scheme, especially aspects on enhancing the disposable income of public servants.

It said improving the disposable income is one of the focuses to enhance human capital empowerment of the public service to boost productivity to realise Malaysia *Madani* aspirations.

The statement added that the prime minister emphasised elements of civil service reform such as digitalising service systems, holistic strategic cooperation and the whole-of-nation approach.

"This is to enhance the efficiency, effectiveness and professionalism of the civil service in providing the best service to the people and the country," according to the statement. – Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

Civil servants at the Home Ministry headquarters in Putrajaya in 2022. A committee reviewing public sector wages and pensions is expected to submit its proposal to the cabinet by the second quarter of this year. FILE PIC

INCREASE IN DISPOSABLE INCOME?

PSD: NEW PAY SCHEME OUTCOME BY OCTOBER

Revised salary scheme details to be unveiled during tabling of 2025 Budget

KUALA LUMPUR

THE proposed improvements to the public service remuneration scheme are expected to be presented to the cabinet in the second quarter of this year, said the Public Service Department (PSD).

It said a decision on the matter was expected to be announced during the tabling of the 2025 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat in October.

"The prime minister (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim) chaired the civil service remuneration scheme review committee on Feb 13, that was also attended by the finance minister II (Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan)," it said in a statement.

The committee discussed enhancements to the civil service remuneration scheme, especially in improving civil servants' disposable income, it said.

PSD said this measure was meant to boost the civil service's human capital and improve its productivity to realise the Malaysia Madani aspirations.

"Civil servants of all levels can still submit their suggestions to semakansaraan.jpa.gov.my before March 1.

"The prime minister also emphasised on the elements of civil service reform, such as digitalisation of the delivery system, holistic strategic cooperation and the whole-of-nation approach to drive efficiency, effectiveness and professionalism of the civil service in giving its best to the people and country."

The government plans to introduce a new remuneration scheme to tackle the ballooning public sector bill for wages and pensions. Among the plans is for new civil service hires to not have pensions, and instead contribute to the Employees Provident Fund and Social Security Organisation.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi had said the government had to come up with a new system to reduce the government's financial commitments.

He had said the government was expected to spend RM120 billion on pensions by 2040 if the existing system was maintained.

Zahid had said the large amount would impose a long-term burden on the government, particularly on Retirement Fund Inc, which might face challenges in ensuring its investments gave sufficient returns.

Civil servants and the public have pushed back on these proposals, saying politicians and political appointees should be the first to give up their pensions.

Some quarters said civil servants were crucial to the running of the government and deserved to be remunerated fairly.

In response, Anwar had said pensions of those holding political positions would also be done away with, but the matter was being studied before a final decision. He had said new laws would have to be drawn up, and be debated and passed in Parliament before a new government remuneration scheme could be introduced.

He said that this was something that had to be done and that previous governments had warned that the nation's economic growth could not be sustained if no changes were made.

Anwar urged all quarters to consider the suggestions before rejecting them.

Several politicians have volunteered to give up their pensions to support the proposed reform.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 15 FEB 2024

SIGN OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY

KLANG VALLEY PROPERTIES TO SEE UP TO 20PC RENTAL HIKE

15/2 NST

Possibility of even further increases as demand picks up after MCO, say property agents

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RENTALS for properties in the Klang Valley are expected to see an increase of 10 to 20 per cent this year, with some property agents not excluding the possibility of further increments.

Real estate agent Jonathan Kiang Kai Ming said rentals were picking up after recording a significant reduction during the Movement Control Order (MCO) following the Covid-19 pandemic. He added that rentals were currently higher than the pre-Covid period.

"Last year and this year we saw an increase in rental rates. During MCO the rental rate was low but it is picking up. The rental rate (now) is higher than during the pre-Covid period," he said.

Depending on the location, rentals can go up between 10 and 20 per cent.

"Areas that are picking up quickly include Bangsar, Bangsar South, Month Kiara, Damansara Heights and KLCC," said Kiang, who has been in the real estate line for five years.

Property negotiator Nurrul Nadia Syidha Abd Raoof said it was normal for rentals to go up every year, especially when the economy grows.

"Normally the increase will be five to 10 per cent or around RM50 to RM100 for rental houses that cost around RM1,000 per month," said Nurrul, who handles sales and rents around Selangor and Nilai.

She said the rise in rental was also a response by owners to cope with the increased overnight policy rate (OPR).

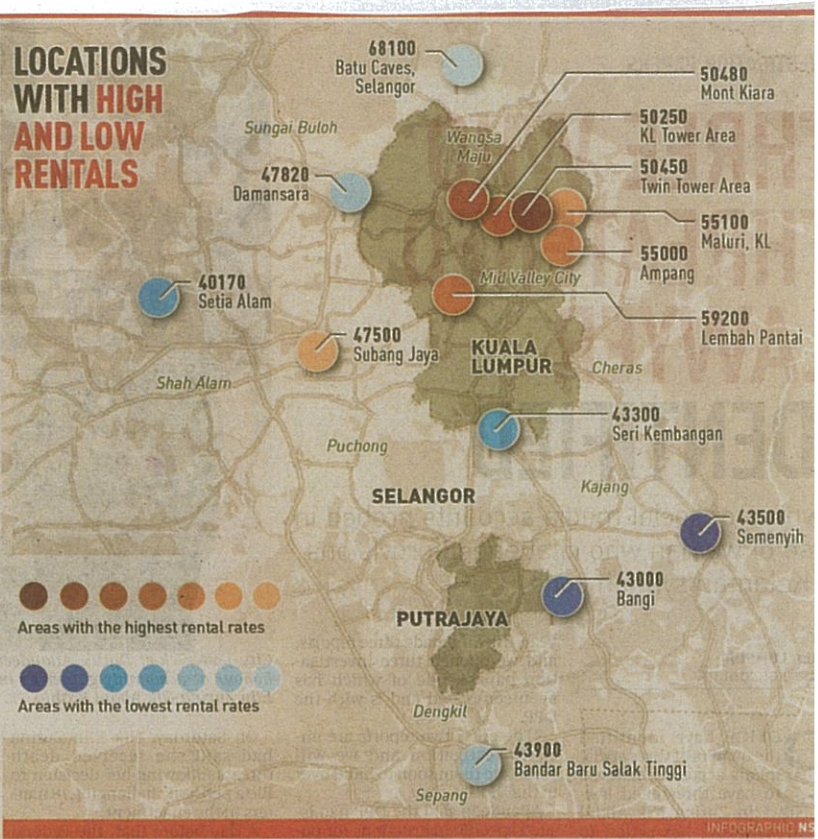
"When OPR increases they have to pay higher loan installment, hence they raise the rent.

"But it is normal to have the rental increase every year, especially as the economy is recovering from Covid-19," she said.

Nurrul said areas experiencing a rise in rental rates typically include those in proximity to public transportation, condominiums connected to malls and main cities.

Asked about the possibility of an additional increase this year, Nurrul said it would depend on various factors, including the economy and public demand.

"I think there might be an increase, but it won't be too significant and sudden," she added.



INFOGRAPHIC NS

Jonathan Kiang Kai Ming

Wong Whei Meng, the chief executive officer of Speedhome, a platform for renting out real estate, said the average rental rate across the Klang Valley had steadily increased by up to 20 per cent in 2023, compared with 2020, which was during the Covid-19 pandemic.

This year, it has increased between three and five per cent.

He, however, believed that there would not be any additional rental hike this year.

"Those up for renewal (their tenancy agreements having expired sometime this year) will experience some hike," he said.

Wong said among areas with high rental rates include Jalan Ampang, Jalan Binjal, Jalan Changkat Kia Peng, Jalan Conlay, Bukit Ledang, Bukit Tunku, Cangkat Damansara, Desa Sri Hartamas, Jalan Bukit Nenas, Jalan Chendana, Jalan P. Ramlee and Jalan Sultan Ismail.

The high rental rates may be attributed to a growing preference for larger units, driven by factors like an area's maturity — meaning it has been fully developed — as well as accessibility, lifestyle and the demand for fully furnished accommodation.

Wong said Kapar, Dengkil and Semenyih were increasing favoured locations, primarily d to their affordability, offeri monthly rental rates ranging t tween RM1,300 and RM1,400.

"These areas and those ad cent to them are a good balance distance and cost of living a certainly an area to pay attenti to (for its potential to grow)."

Wong said a few proposed c velopments in the Klang Vall were expected to affect proper rentals. These included the Lig Rail Transit Line 3 (LRT3), Ma Rapid Transit Line 3 (MRT3) a Kuala Lumpur-Singapore Hig Speed Rail (HSR) project.

"The Malaysia My Secon Home programme too will c tainly impact property prices a reduce overhang at the high-e market," he added.

Klang Valley tenants concerned about paying more for rent

NST 15/2

NEWS of the surge in rentals this year has sparked concern among Klang Valley residents.

A resident, who only wished to be known as Junaidi, said his landlord had not indicated that he would raise the rent.

Junaidi, however, admitted that any increase will undoubtedly pose a challenge for tenants.

"If there is an increase, it will definitely raise my cost of living.

"We already have many new taxes, including digital tax, to pay. If we buy stuff online, we will have to pay tax (low-value goods tax) and some services are already experiencing price hikes.

"So, I might spend more time at home if there is this additional cost of higher rent," said the 27-year-old, who is a writer.

Junaidi, who rents a property in Subang Jaya, said he was paying RM1,700 a month for his house which he has been living in for the past two years.

Siti Nur Najiihah Baharudin, 26, said a rent hike would compel her to adjust her monthly spending.

She is, however, relieved that her landlord has not signalled any possible rent hike.

"I would be disappointed if there is an increase in my rent as I have been renting here for two years.

"Such an increase will affect my savings and increase my commitment.

"So, I would have to readjust my financial spending every month," said the F&B worker who pays RM350 a month for a room in Bangsar.

Siti Rasyidah Zainuddin, 25, said her landlord had increased the rent, but the amount w bearable since she was rentin home in Kampung Datuk Ke mat with six other tenants.

"I am lucky that the increase not a lot, only RM100, but stil increases my monthly spendi bill.

"But I'm not really affected t much because we could split t bill if the rent goes up," said t anti-money laundering analys

NEW STRAITS TIMES
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