



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 04 JULAI 2024 (KHAMIS)

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1.	THE STAR	• ROYAL KICK-OFF FOR SUBANG HOTEL WITH SPORTS THEME

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Royal kick-off for Subang hotel with sports theme

By LEW GUAN XI



Tengku Amir Shah (third from right) showing the Tanjong Subang Jaya hotel keycard at the launch. With him are (from left) Johan Kamal, Saipolyazan, Ng, Mohd Fauzi, Najwan and Mohd Zulkurnain. — Photos: AZMAN GHANI/The Star

THE first-ever sports-themed hotel in Malaysia was launched in 3K Complex, Subang Jaya, with Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah as its first guest.

Tanjong Subang Jaya hotel is part of the Football Association of Selangor's (FAS) Tanjong hospitality network.

In his speech, FAS secretary-general Muhammad Izrin Nabil Ismail said the hotel's opening marked a new milestone for the association and hospitality industry.

"This is a huge step forward in making Selangor football more sustainable.

"We in the FAS have always been dedicated to developing grassroots-level football."

He added that the hotel also promoted football education in Selangor and supported FAS' finances.

These two growth aspects are two of FAS' five operational mandates.

"After today's launch, it is hoped that the hotel becomes a sports and educational hub in Selangor, leveraging the state's football community with the latest football knowledge.

"The initiative can also expand FAS' coffers to ensure we are able to hold more programmes to strengthen the sport," said Muhammad Izrin.

Royal kick-off for Subang hotel with sports theme

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The hotel also hosts the new FAS office. — Photos: AZMAN GHANI/The Star

Among the three other FAS mandates is aiming to develop Selangor football through technical knowledge, tournaments and facilities.

Building women's participation in the sport through active talent sourcing and incentives is also a priority.

The association has also mandated the drafting of impactful football-related policies through sophisticated data collection.

Muhammad Izrin said the hotel has 40 rooms, gymnasium and cafeteria.

The football association's new office is located in the hotel.

In a statement, Tanjong Subang Jaya said RM2.5mil was spent to upgrade the hotel at the building owned by Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ).

Its name is inspired by Selangor's official flower "Bunga Tanjong Pecah Sembilan" or Spanish cherry.

The emblem represents FAS' strength sourced from the unity of the state's nine districts.

Hotel facilities include Chak'z 1964 restaurant serving local and Western fares.

The Red Giant Physio Centre, which provides industry-level physiotherapy services, is also a point of focus.

Present at the launch were Subang Jaya deputy mayor Mohd Zulkurnain Che Ali, Shah Alam mayor Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim, Selangor youth, sports, and entrepreneurship committee chairman Najwan Halimi, Subang Jaya assemblyman Michelle Ng, Menteri Besar Incorporated chief executive officer Saipolyazan M. Yusop and Selangor Football Club chief executive officer Dr Johan Kamal Hamidon.

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Tengku Amir Shah (third from right) showing the Tanjong Subang Jaya hotel keycard at the launch. With him are (from left) Johan Kamal, Saipolyazan, Ng, Mohd Fauzi, Najwan and Mohd Zulkurnain. The hotel (above) also hosts the new FAS office. — Photos: AZMAN GHANI/The Star

By LEW GUAN XI
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Raja Muda Selangor welcomed as first guest at FAS property

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THE STAR

04 JUL 2024

Tarikh:

Klang schools face traffic chaos

PTA of seven institutions off Persiaran Raja Muda Musa urge MBDK to take action

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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TRAFFIC congestion around several schools off Persiaran Raja Muda Musa in Klang, Selangor, has reached critical levels, leading to dangerous driving that poses a safety hazard for schoolchildren.

The schools' Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA) have voiced concerns over multiple incidents where parents block roads with their vehicles, cut queues and park haphazardly during school drop-off and pick-up times.

The extreme congestion affects seven schools – Hin Hua High School, SK La Salle, SMK La Salle, SK (1) and (2) Simpang Lima, SMK Tengku Ampuan Rahimah and Regent International School.

Hin Hua High School PTA committee member Canry Leow highlighted the gravity of the situation.

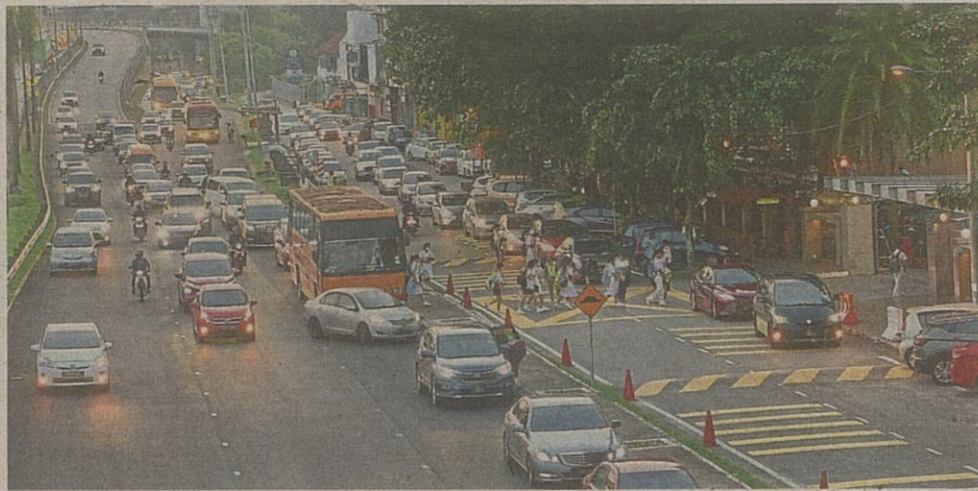
"Our inner service roads are used by an estimated 6,000 students, some ferried by parents in cars, in school buses and on motorcycles, while others cycle or walk.

"It is chaotic. At times, there are near-misses or minor accidents as cars squeeze through," he said.

Leow urged Klang Royal City Council (MBDK) to reassess movement of vehicular traffic around the schools.

He said Hin Hua High School had hired People's Volunteer Corps (Rela) members to manage traffic outside the school gate during peak periods, namely 6.45am to 7.30am, noon to 1.30pm, and 3pm to 3.45pm.

However, Leow noted that despite the presence of Rela personnel and no-entry signs, some drivers still chose to go against traffic flow.



MBDK
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Traffic congestion on the service road off Persiaran Raja Muda Musa in Klang. There are seven schools in the area. — Photos: FAIHAN GHANI and AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

SMK La Salle PTA chairman K. Jayandra chided parents who blocked roads with their cars while dropping off their children.

He added that some drivers cut queues and also parked next to other cars, blocking entire lanes.

Both Leow and Jayandra urged parents to be more considerate.

"Following discussions with other school PTAs in the area, we believe that a 600m shaded walkway needs to be built along Jalan Jelutong, linking it with an elevated 180m pedestrian walkway across Leboh Jelutong to the new Taman Selatan Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3) station," they said.

Leow said the proposed path would help reduce traffic, as most of the students come from Bukit Raja, Bandar Bukit Tinggi, Bandar Botanic and Bandar Parklands, which will be serviced by the new LRT line.

The LRT3 is set to start operating in March 2025.

Leow added that a written proposal for the walkway was submitted to then Klang municipal council president Datin Paduka Noraini Roslan on July 27, 2022, but no action had been taken yet.

MBDK Engineering Department director Zamri Othman said construction of a shaded walkway and pedestrian bridge had been agreed upon at the council level.

However, discussions with all seven schools' PTA committees were necessary to finalise the alignment, he said.

Klang South OCPD Asst Comm Cha Hoong Fong, when contacted by *StarMetro*, said traffic personnel would be stationed to regulate traffic during peak hours outside the schools as an immediate measure to alleviate congestion.



Leow and Jayandra want MBDK to reassess the movement of vehicular traffic around the schools during peak hours.

THE STAR

Tarikh:..... 04 JUL 2024

Damaged wall of temple in Pekan Sg Besi to be rebuilt

DBKL
STW
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By ETHEL SIAO
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THE damaged wall of century-old Sien See Sze Ya Temple on Jalan Suasa 6 in Pekan Sungai Besi will be rebuilt.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) advisory board member Carmen Leong said the wall, which was badly cracked and in danger of falling over, was damaged as a result of poor drainage.

"Adjacent to the temple is DBKL reserve land, where a family of squatters are running a car workshop.

"The reserve land slopes downward and water flow was previously directed towards a nearby drain, which was installed 40 years ago.

"However, during my visit

before Chinese New Year, I was shocked to find the drain covered with soil.

"This led to poor drainage, causing stagnant water to seep underground, gradually damaging the foundation and causing the wall to crack and tilt," Leong said.

She further highlighted instances of waterlogging next to the wall and in the backyard of the Taoist temple.

"Underground water accumulation will lead to surface ponding.

"The situation worsens after rainfall," Leong said during her recent site visit.

Also present were officials from DBKL's Valuation and Property Management Department (JPPH), Enforcement Department and its Tun Razak



Leong with DBKL Tun Razak city branch officer Asyqoh Yusuf checking the cracks on the temple wall.
— LOW BOON TAT/The Star

city branch office.

Leong said the latest visit, the third such appraisal of the situation, aimed to address the problem at its core.

"Despite lack of action following the previous two site visits, the outcome this time is more fruitful.

"City Hall has promised to rebuild the drain.

"The local authority will also

assist the temple by demolishing the wall for reconstruction," she said.

Leong added that DBKL would hold a meeting soon with the temple's contractor to finalise construction plans.

Sien See Sze Ya Temple was established in 1901 in Sungai Besi Old Town, but was moved to Pekan Sungai Besi in 1937.

DBKL advisory board member

Lai Chen Heng, who was also present, urged the local authority's staff to be more attentive to their duties.

"Sometimes the problem lies not with the authorities themselves, but with staff who might neglect to report issues."

Lai urged public servants to carry out their duties diligently to ensure more effective resolution of issues.

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Tarikh:.....

Getting drug addicts on the right path

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INMATES who have completed their sentences or paid their fines for drug abuse offences need to be supervised by the National Anti-Drugs Agency (AADK) for two to three years, says the Deputy Home Minister.

Datuk Seri Dr Shamsul Anwar Nasarah said 3,472 people are serving time in prison for drug abuse offences under Section 15(1) of the Dangerous Drugs Act 1952 (Act 283), while another 2,978 have been remanded for abusing drugs.

He said that last year alone, 75,291 people received treatment at the AADK for drug abuse, with 2,460 of them having sought treatment voluntarily.

Out of the total figure, Shamsul said 65,372 people received treat-

ment in the AADK community facility while another 9,919 received treatment at the AADK institution.

He was speaking in Parliament when tabling the Drug Dependents (Treatment and Rehabilitation) (Amendment) 2024 for a second reading.

He said the amendments to Act 283 included the creation of a new subsection to allow individuals to obtain treatment for a period of up to six months.

"This chance is given to help clients so they can free themselves from addiction by being in a controlled environment," he said.

Shamsul added that the new Section 6A under Act 283 was to allow the courts, upon the advice of the rehabilitation officer, to

allow drug abusers to go through treatment and rehabilitation.

"This section also gives powers to the magistrate to order drug abusers to undergo treatment or rehabilitation in the community for a period no longer than two years, or at a rehabilitation centre no longer than six months," he said.

At the same time, Shamsul said drug addicts who did not abide by any rules while undergoing treatment could be punished.

For the first offence, he said they would be ordered to undergo a six-month extension of their treatment.

For the second and subsequent offences, they would be ordered to undergo treatment at a rehabilitation centre for a period no

longer than one year, he added.

According to Shamsul, amendments to Section 8 would allow the rehabilitation officer to admit and determine the necessary treatment for people who sought rehabilitation treatment voluntarily.

He said rehabilitation for those who sought voluntary treatment could be conducted at rehabilitation centres, service centres, private rehabilitation centres or even in the community for up to two years.

"With this proposed amendment a client can begin treatment and rehabilitation immediately with a shorter evaluation period," he said.

The treatment of those who do not comply with treatment and

rehabilitation conditions could be stopped, he added.

According to the Bill, the proposed Section 27C will allow for the formation of the Rehabilitation Officers Council, which will oversee the treatment and rehabilitation profession.

The council will comprise drug treatment and rehabilitation experts from the private and government sectors.

The council will also decide on the qualification conditions and criteria of registered health practitioners who will be carrying out rehabilitation and treatment work.

The amendments to Act 283 were tabled for first reading on Tuesday by Home Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail.

THE STAR

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More action needed to ensure healthier newborns

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PETALING JAYA: One group of underweight newborns is particularly vulnerable to health problems.

Known as Small for Gestational Age (SGA), babies who fall in this category are those who weigh less than the 10th percentile for their gestational age.

In other words, SGA babies are smaller than 90% of other babies at the same number of weeks since conception.

Some experts estimate that SGA babies make up about one-third of low birth weight (LBW) newborns, defined as those born with a weight of less than 2.5kg.

"SGA babies are particularly vulnerable. They are more prone to complications such as hypothermia, infections, respiratory issues and metabolic problems shortly after birth," said consultant paediatrician Datuk Dr Musa Nordin.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia Faculty of Medicine deputy dean Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said SGA births had several underlying causes.

"Maternal factors such as poor diet, hypertension or kidney disease, anaemia, substance abuse, small maternal size and chronic conditions play a significant role,"

said the public health physician.

Prof Sharifa Ezat added that healthcare workers need to identify SGA babies early as many of the causes are preventable.

They include maternal malnutrition, hypertensive diseases and substance abuse during pregnancy.

"Foetal factors also contribute to the occurrence of SGA babies, including multiple births, chromosomal abnormalities and congenital infections," she said.

Prof Sharifa Ezat noted that problems with the placenta, such as insufficiency and infarction, are also critical factors leading to

SGA births.

Consultant paediatrician Datuk Dr Amar Singh HSS said poverty or socioeconomic problems that mothers face could also be linked to SGA in newborns.

This is because such problems could jeopardise the well-balanced nutrition and prenatal care that is needed during pregnancy, he added.

Prof Sharifa Ezat said good policies on pregnancy monitoring, risk triaging, referrals to high-intensity care and preventing SGA were already in place.

"However, other factors such as social or economic factors make

prevention efforts more difficult to implement," she added.

Dr Amar Singh said it was important to have disaggregated data to identify the most vulnerable segments of the population.

"We need to show which segments of the population are giving birth to SGA babies by geographical region, social class, ethnic group and others.

"Only with this data can we target the groups that most require assistance.

"We must take meaningful and concerted action to address the rising rates of SGA births," he added.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

Wake up call on worrying HIV trend

Experts: Alarming figures show need to prioritise sexual health education

PETALING JAYA: The increasing number of new HIV cases among tertiary students is alarming, says Malaysian Medical Association president Dr Azizan Abdul Aziz (pic).

She said the trend showed current preventive measures were insufficient.

"This is a public health issue that demands immediate and coordinated action consisting of comprehensive sexual health education, increased awareness and access to preventive measures.

"It also underscores the importance of targeted public health initiatives," she said, stressing the need to address factors such as education gaps, lack of awareness and inadequate access to preventive resources such as condoms and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP).

Dr Azizan also emphasised the role of parenting as part of preventive efforts.

She called for inclusive, accurate, and readily available sexual health education to be prioritised.

"Comprehensive education should cover safe sex practices, the importance of regular testing, and the reduction of the stigma associated with HIV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

"Educating students about it yields long-term benefits that influence their behaviour and

health choices well into adulthood," she added.

She also urged enhanced collaboration between health-care providers, educational institutions, and community organisations to ensure students have simple access to confidential testing and counselling services.

"Creating a supportive environment where students feel safe to seek help and information is essential in combating the spread of HIV," she said.

Yesterday, the Dewan Rakyat was told that there had been an increase in new HIV cases among students aged 18 to 25 in public and private higher education institutions.

The Higher Education Ministry, citing figures from the Health Ministry, said there were 214 HIV cases involving tertiary students in 2020, followed by a slight reduction to 186 cases in 2021.

However, the number went up to 221 cases in 2022 and 244 cases last year, said the Higher Education Ministry in a written reply dated July 2.

"The percentage of students from public and private higher education learning institutions (infected with HIV) is between 6.7% and 7.6% of the total num-



ber of new HIV cases identified in the years mentioned," it added.

This means there was an increase of about 15% in 2022 and about a 10% increase in 2023.

The ministry said through public universities, it has planned and implemented various programmes in advocacy, awareness and prevention in relation to HIV.

"We are always aware and concerned about the wellbeing of students, including issues involving health and diseases," it added.

The ministry also said that from 2022 until June this year, it held 77 advocacy, awareness and prevention programmes on HIV, involving 22,905 public university students.

It was responding to Datuk Azman Nasrudin (PN-Padang Serai), who had asked about figures of tertiary students who were infected with HIV from 2020 until now.

Both the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF) and Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) said the increasing number of HIV cases was not unique to those in the tertiary education age group.

Their executive director Jasmin Jalil said Malaysia is currently

facing a rise in the sexual transmission of HIV, which predominantly affects the young population.

He said stigma remained the biggest barrier for the younger generation in seeking help if affected or at risk of HIV.

"This comes despite progress made in HIV science that includes PrEP, which effectively prevents sexual transmission of HIV," he said.

Jasmin added that the MAF and MAC were working closely with the Health Ministry to provide high-impact HIV services, including PrEP and self-tests, to anyone at risk.

"Through partner organisations, we are also working with both private and government higher education institutions to conduct comprehensive HIV awareness programmes.

"This helps educate young people about HIV prevention and reduces the stigma associated with it," he said.

Jasmin also said their outreach efforts were focused on encouraging young people to regularly test for HIV so they know their status.

Public health medicine specialist Prof Dr Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh pointed out that HIV screenings were done in marriage counselling but not at education institutions.

"Certain high-risk schools may implement screenings, but this can lead to stigma among students.

"Hence, self-reporting or self-referrals can be done. School counsellors also need to be aware of the issue," said Dr Sharifa, who is with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

To prevent the stigma that may come with mass health screenings in schools, she instead proposed testing high-risk groups through discreet information sharing.

"This may include students and trusted groups, including school counsellors," she added.

Dr Sharifa also said more attention and risk reduction measures were needed to detect and prevent HIV.

According to the Health Ministry, its latest figures showed that there were an estimated 69,589 people living with HIV as of 2022.

Last year, Deputy Health Minister Lukanisman Awang Sauni said there were 3,177 new HIV cases last year, with about 77% of them involving youth aged between 20 and 39 and 90% of them being men.

He said the figures showed that exposure to HIV infections began in school, and about 97% of the cases were due to sex.

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....

Aiming for an accessible, inclusive future

IN the vibrant tapestry of Malaysian society, a shadow lingers over the accessibility of public buildings for those with disabilities.

Despite legislative efforts to promote inclusivity and equal access, the reality for many individuals with disabilities is one of navigating physical and social barriers that limit their freedom and participation in public life. The absence of essential facilities such as ramps, elevators, and accessible parking spaces in government offices, shopping centres, and educational institutions perpetuates a cycle of exclusion and marginalisation.

Persons with disabilities face a myriad challenges in accessing healthcare, education, and transportation due to the lack of basic infrastructure in public buildings.

The absence of tactile indicators, Braille signage, and accessible communication systems not

only hinders their ability to navigate physical spaces but also reinforces societal stigmas and discrimination.

This dearth of accessibility not only restricts their opportunities for social interaction and economic empowerment but also jeopardises their safety and well-being in times of emergencies.

The struggle for inclusivity and equal access extends beyond physical barriers to encompass the intangible walls of social exclusion and discrimination faced by persons with disabilities. The lack of accessible facilities in public buildings not only limits their participation in cultural events, recreational activities, and community gatherings, but also perpetuates a cycle of isolation and alienation from mainstream society.

The absence of inclusive design principles and universal access standards further compounds the challenges faced by individu-

als with disabilities, leaving them on the fringes of society.

In the range of solutions available, a harmonious blend of proactive measures and collaborative efforts is essential to bridge the gap in accessibility.

The strict enforcement of existing accessibility regulations, coupled with public awareness campaigns and penalties for noncompliance can serve as a catalyst for change and accountability among building owners and operators.

By incorporating universal design principles into the planning and construction of public buildings, Malaysia can pave the way for a more inclusive and accessible environment where individuals with disabilities can thrive and contribute to society.

The voices advocating for change must include persons with disabilities themselves, whose lived experiences and insights are invaluable in shap-

ing inclusive design practices and decision-making processes.

Through public consultations, training programmes, and sensitisation efforts, stakeholders can foster a culture of inclusivity and accessibility that celebrates the diversity and dignity of all individuals.

The threads of accessibility and inclusivity must be woven together to create a vibrant and diverse society in the future where all individuals, including those with disabilities, can flourish and thrive.

By embracing the principles of equality, dignity, and respect for all, Malaysia can chart a new course towards a more accessible and inclusive future for generations to come.

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Cities should be culturally and technologically vibrant, says PM

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By MARTIN CARVAHO
and RAHIMY RAHIM
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KUALA LUMPUR: Cities and urban centres in the country should be culturally and technologically vibrant to avoid becoming "concrete jungles", says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"What we show must not be any other city or just a concrete jungle which is all the same throughout the world.

"It has to have character as well as be culturally and technologically vibrant," Anwar said when launching the Asean-China Ministerial Roundtable on Construction and Housing 2024 here yesterday.

He said culturally vibrant meant display-

ing building designs which reflect the nation's cultural diversity including that of the indigenous people of Sabah and Sarawak.

"It would be shameful if we do not take this into consideration," Anwar said.

He added that the cities or urban centres should also be environmentally sustainable and sound both digitally and artificial intelligence-wise.

Anwar stressed that cities or urban centres must also cater to the housing needs of the less fortunate.

"It should take into account the needs of everyone, so that we don't end up with one sector for the very rich and another for the poor and down-trodden. There must be 'One City' that is inclusive," he said to

applause of approval from the gallery.

Later at a press conference, Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming said a framework on Malaysia Identity of Architecture is being drafted to incorporate local designs in public buildings.

In line with this, he said a design contest for the development of new market premises under the ministry and local councils was recently implemented.

"Those that win, their design will be adopted for the building and they will be hired as consultants," he said.

He cited the RM24mil project to develop the Bukit Mertajam Wet Market as an example where local cultural and historical features are highlighted.

He also said that the Malaysian Institute

of Architects and Board of Architect Malaysia have set up a committee to fine tune a framework for a "Malaysian Identity Architecture".

Earlier, Anwar also launched the 23rd International Architecture, Interior Design and Building Exhibition, which was also held in conjunction with the event.

The Prime Minister witnessed the exchange of letters of interest between PRIMA Communications Sdn Bhd and Huawei Technologies (M) Sdn Bhd. It is aimed at integrating Huawei's smart devices into PRIMA developments to improve the quality of life for residents.

Also present at the events was China's Housing and Urban-Rural Development Minister Ni Hong.

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Tarikh:.....

Championing mental health research



Students experience the power of communication through immersive programmes, gaining practical skills and hands-on experience with the latest industry tools and technologies, preparing them to become changemakers in the dynamic field of mass communication.

THE STAR

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Tarikh:.....

DESPITE the increased awareness of mental health's importance during the Covid-19 pandemic, Malaysia continues to face a troubling rise in suicide rates.

The Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM) recorded 1,087 suicide cases in 2023, marking a 10% increase from 981 cases in 2022.

University of Cyberjaya's (UoC) Faculty of Psychology and Social Sciences dean Dr Anasuya Jegathevi Jegathesan aims to address this critical issue by understanding the experiences of those who have survived suicide attempts in her research.

Her study, titled *Surviving Suicide: The Realities Faced by Suicide Survivors*, employs interpretative phenomenological analysis to explore the lived experiences of 19 individuals who have attempted suicide.

These respondents, who were not undergoing active therapy at the time of the interviews, volunteered after responding to advertisements on WhatsApp groups and Facebook.

Dr Anasuya's research findings revealed three main influencers of suicide attempts among the respondents: Internal Negative States, Intense One-off Crisis Events and a unique condition she calls Anticipatory Hopelessness.

While the first two influencers are commonly understood within the realm of psychology, Anticipatory Hopelessness is a novel finding.

It describes a state where individuals, despite being in a positive phase of their lives, feel compelled to end their lives to preserve their current state of satisfaction, anticipating that future expectations and responsibilities will lead to a decline in their well-being.

One particularly poignant case involved a married woman with three children who attempted suicide three times, including during her honeymoon. She felt that dying during a moment of peace and happiness would be preferable to facing future challenges.

"This is the first time that I've come across individuals having these thoughts. I've tried to look for more research about this condition, but there have been none so far," says Dr Anasuya.

"I've spoken to colleagues in the industry and found that they have also had one or two clients like that. I realised that we actually have a narrow idea of suicide. Because a minority of people face this condition, it will be difficult to research."

"However, I am keen to explore more on this and look forward to focusing on this area of research in the future."

Dr Anasuya's research also highlights the critical role of external intervention in preventing suicide.

She found that many suicide attempts were halted by the timely actions of friends, family members or even strangers.

Recognising the importance of these findings, Dr Anasuya and her colleagues organised a Suicide Attrition Intervention Workshop in March, which was attended by 116 participants.

This free public event, sponsored by the Selangor state government and UoC, aimed to equip ordinary people with the skills to intervene in suicide crises.

The workshop, supported by the Positive Psychology Association and Yayasan Chow Kit, took place at the Buddhist Gem Fellowship in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

"This suicide attrition initiative is about getting regular people – those who are present, listening or attached to non-profit organisations, including religious ones such as mosques, temples, churches and even teachers – who aren't trained in mental health issues to help," says Dr Anasuya.

is suicidal and know what to say to make them change their mind and get help."

Under Dr Anasuya's leadership, UoC's Psychology programmes have flourished, becoming a beacon of hope for those seeking to understand and support mental health.

UoC has also announced that Dr Anasuya will be honoured at the World Education Congress with the Prof Indira Parikh 50 Women in Education Leaders citation. This prestigious award recognises her exceptional contributions to education and her pioneering research in psychology.

The award process, conducted by an independent research cell and reviewed by a distinguished jury, highlights her strategic perspective, future orientation, track record, integrity and commitment to sustainable education.

The presentation ceremony will be held at Taj Lands End in Mumbai, India on July 11.

The importance of Dr Anasuya's research underscores a broader, critical need – the development of soft skills to help those struggling with mental health issues.

Effective communication, empathy and active listening are crucial in supporting individuals facing mental health challenges.

The fields of Mass Communications, offered under the Faculty of Psychology and Social Sciences at UoC, play a vital role in cultivating these essential skills.

The Diploma in Mass Communications programme equips students with the ability to communicate effectively, understand audience dynamics and convey messages with clarity and compassion.

These skills are invaluable in professional settings and personal interactions, particularly when supporting someone in a mental health crisis.

Mass Communications students are trained in various forms of media and communication strategies, enabling them to become adept at reaching diverse audiences.

Students will have the opportunity to dive deep into a comprehensive curriculum that spans journalism, public relations, broadcasting and digital media.

This training enhances their ability to connect with individuals from different backgrounds, fostering a deeper understanding of various perspectives and experiences.

Students are also provided an immersive experience in state-of-the-art facilities, including multimedia labs and professional-grade studios.

With hands-on internships, networking events and workshops, they will be well-prepared to seamlessly transition from life as a student to an industry professional.

UoC's commitment to developing well-rounded graduates is evident in its holistic approach to education.

By integrating the study of psychology and social sciences with mass communications, the university prepares students to make meaningful contributions to society.

Whether through direct intervention, raising awareness or shaping public discourse, these graduates are equipped to play a crucial role in enhancing mental health support systems.

Apply today and take the first step towards making a difference in the world.

Prospective students interested in any of these programmes can find more information and application details on the university's website at cyberjaya.edu.my/psychology2024.

■ For more information, you can contact UoC's education counsellors via

Selangor terus terajui ekonomi negara

Buktikan pentadbiran kerajaan negeri berada pada landasan yang tepat

Oleh MOHD AZLIM ZAINURY
SHAH ALAM



AMIRUDIN

Peningkatan sumbangan Selangor sebanyak 25.9 peratus kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) nasional tahun lalu membuktikan pentadbiran kerajaan negeri berada pada landasan yang tepat.

Menteri Besar, Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari berkata, langkah dan usaha dilakukan Kerajaan Perpaduan di negeri tu juga akan membawa Selangor ke puncak kegemilangan.

"Alhamdulillah, negeri Selangor terus mencatat kejayaan demi kejayaan.

"Berebalkan usaha gigih semua pihak dan ikhtiar kerajaan negeri yang sentiasa memberi yang terbaik, kita menerima khabar gembira apabila Selangor terus menerajui pembangunan ekonomi negara.



"Peningkatan sumbangan KDNK, nilai aktiviti ekonomi mencecah RM400 bilion serta saiz ekonomi yang meningkat adalah bukti bahawa Kerajaan Perpaduan

Selangor di landasan tepat ataupun *on the right track* bagi membawa negeri ini ke puncak kegemilangan," katanya pada Rabu.

Dalam hantaran sama di laman Facebooknya itu, Amirudin turut merakamkan penghargaan kepada barisan penjawat awam, pihak swasta, komuniti perniagaan serta rakyat Selangor atas kejayaan tersebut.

"Saya rakamkan penghargaan kepada barisan penjawat awam, pihak swasta, komuniti perniagaan serta sudah tentu rakyat negeri Selangor atas kejayaan ini.

"InsyaALLAH kami akan terus bekerja lebih kuat agar Selangor terus maju dan lebih hebat," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

Penyelesaian isu banjir, trafik

Oleh Mahaizura
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Shah Alam

Pembangunan Kompleks Sukan Shah Alam (KSSA) melengkapi dan menambah baik pelan induk sedia ada Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) terutama dalam aspek menyelesaikan masalah banjir dan kesesakan lalu lintas.

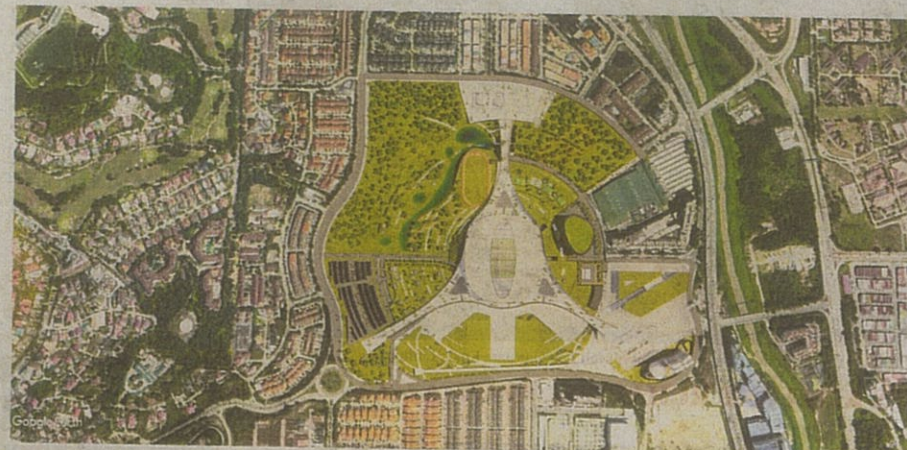
Datuk Bandar Shah Alam, Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim berkata, pembangunan ini akan berupaya membantu menyelesaikan isu setempat dihadapi penduduk sekitar.

Menurutnya, pihaknya menyedari kawasan Shah Alam kerap dilanda banjir, sekali gus melihat dua isu utama iaitu banjir dan lalu lintas (trafik).

"Untuk banjir ini, kita telah merancang dalam master plan iaitu untuk sistem saliran, maka kita boleh mengalirkan (air) apabila berlaku banjir ke Sungai Damansara.

"Kita mempunyai sistem saliran sedia ada di Seksyen 13 iaitu lima pam air yang akan berfungsi atau sedang berfungsi sekarang untuk menangani isu apabila mungkin menerima banyak taburan hujan.

"Jadi, dengan gabungan projek tebatan banjir (seluas) 4.04 hektar dalam KSSA akan lengkapkan dan menambah baik lagi apa yang kita ada seka-



"Di Shah Alam kita mementingkan pembangunan bandar hijau jadi kemampuan bandar hijau dan penggunaan solar juga disampingkan dalam pembinaan KSSA"

Datuk Bandar Shah Alam,
Datuk Mohd Fauzi
Mohd Yatim

rang," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Mohd Fauzi berkata, masalah trafik setempat juga dapat diatasi menerusi terminal bersepadu yang

dibangunkan dalam KSSA.

"Dalam kompleks itu semua ada, satu boleh diintegrasikan dengan sistem pengangkutan sedia

ada. Kita sudah ada sistem Transit Aliran Ringan (LRT 3), jadi ia boleh menyelesaikan masalah trafik di Shah Alam.

"Integrasi pengangkutan dengan mod pe-

ngangkutan sedia ada boleh mempercepatkan dan mempermudah orang ramai masuk menggunakan pengangkutan awam sekali gus kita boleh kurangkan penggunaan pengangkutan persendirian dan tangani isu trafik," katanya.

Katanya, pembangunan KSSA yang menampilkan konsep kelestarian juga selaras dengan pembangunan bandar hijau mampan yang ditekankan di Shah Alam.

"Di Shah Alam kita mementingkan pembangunan bandar hijau jadi kemampuan bandar hijau dan penggunaan solar juga disampingkan dalam pembinaan KSSA ini.

"Contohnya, projek tebatan banjir KSSA juga menekankan kepada aspek hijau iaitu pada masa hujan, ia berfungsi sebagai kolam takungan, te-

tapi apabila kering, ia akan berfungsi sebagai tempat rekreasi lebih menarik hingga boleh memuatkan pengunjung lebih ramai.

"Jadi, ini satu tarikan yang unik dan mampu untuk menarik ramai orang datang ke Shah Alam untuk menikmati keindahan yang ada di persekitaran KSSA," katanya.

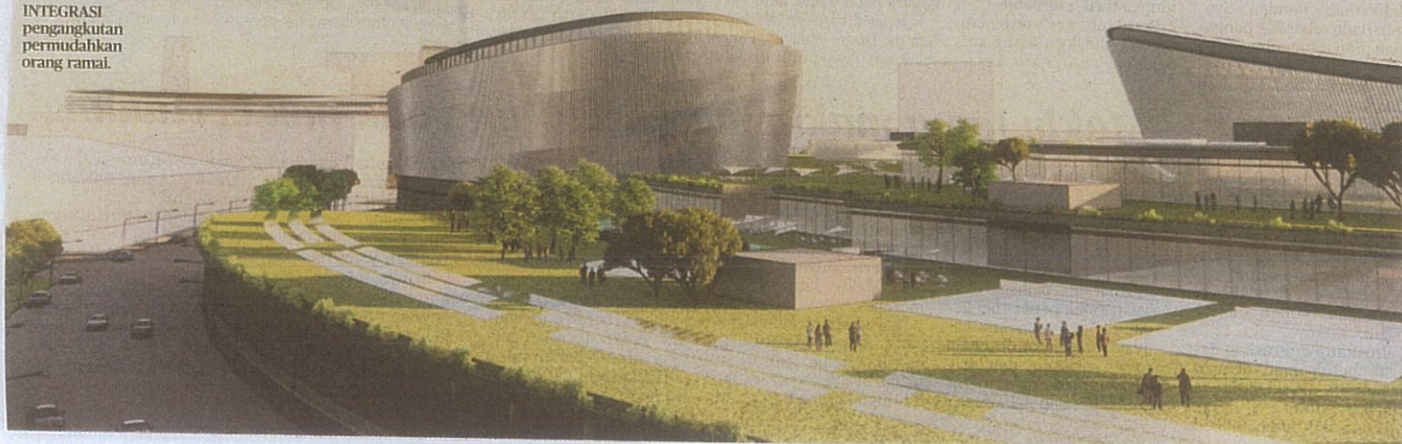
Menurutnya, pihaknya juga mengalu-alukan projek berkenaan yang sememangnya akan memberi impak yang positif dan mengubah imej bandar raya ini apabila siap kelak.

"Kita lihat stadium lama dengan kemudahannya mungkin tidak lagi menepati keperluan semasa, jadi sebab itu dengan adanya KSSA ini, ia boleh menjanjikan banyak kelebihan, faedah dan kebaikan bukan sahaja kepada penduduk di sekitar Shah Alam, tetapi juga di luar Shah Alam.

"KSSA ini mampu untuk menarik pelancong dari luar untuk berkunjung sebab kita melihat dari segi reka bentuk futuristik dan moden dapat menjadikannya sebagai satu ikon baharu kepada Bandaraya Shah Alam.

"Selain itu, kita mungkin boleh merancang dan merangka satu program yang mungkin bercorak tahunan bagi mengumpul penggiat seni dalam dan luar negara untuk menggunakan teater tertutup dalam KSSA, sekali gus boleh menjana ekonomi," katanya.

INTEGRASI
pengangkutan
permudahkan
orang ramai.





DBKL sita sembilan barangan warga asing

Kuala Lumpur: Sebanyak sembilan sitaan barangan diambil terhadap warga asing yang berniaga di sekitar Pasar Borong Kuala Lumpur, di sini, kelmarin.

Antara barang jualan warga asing yang disita dalam operasi itu ialah sayur-sayuran serta buah-buahan.

Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) dalam kenyataan semalam berkata, tindakan itu diambil menerusi Jabatan Penguatkuasaan, Jabatan Kesihatan dan Alam Sekitar dan Pejabat Cawangan Batu.

"Hasil tindakan khas ini, sebanyak sembilan sitaan barangan jualan warga asing diambil di bawah UUK 3(1), Undang-undang Pelesenan Penjaja (Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur) 2016.

"DBKL juga melaksanakan satu tindakan pindah halangan di bawah Seksyen 46(1)(d), Akta Jalan, Parit dan Bangunan 1974," kata-

nya.

Menurutnya, DBKL turut mengeluarkan dua notis tawaran kompaun di bawah UUK 3(1), Undang-undang Kecil Perlesenan Tred, Perniagaan dan Perindustrian (Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur) 2016.

"Ia adalah bagi kesalahan menjalankan aktiviti perniagaan tanpa lesen sah.

"Kami juga mengeluarkan tiga notis penguatkuasaan di bawah Seksyen 46(1)(a), Akta Jalan, Parit dan Bangunan 1974 bagi kesalahan mendirikan struktur tanpa kebenaran," katanya.

Katanya, semua barangan disita dan dipindah halangan dibawa ke Setor Sitaan Jalan Lombong, Taman Miharja Cheras, di sini, untuk rekod dan dokumentasi.

"Pihak DBKL akan meneruskan tindakan dan pemantauan dari semasa ke semasa di lokasi tumpuan yang dikenal pasti," katanya.

"Sembilan sitaan barangan jualan warga asing diambil DBKL"

HARIAN METRO
04 JUL 2024

Tarikh:

Bisnes

SEBANYAK 36 juta kenderaan berdaftar menyumbang kepada RM66.7 bilion dalam jualan runcit bahan api automotif pada 2023.



RASIONALISASI SUBSIDI RON95

LAKSANA SECARA BERPERINGKAT

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Kuala Lumpur

Rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 dijangka dilaksanakan secara berperingkat dan terukur untuk mengehadkan kenaikan yang mungkin berlaku akibat kenaikan harga bahan api itu, demikian menurut penganalisis.

Ketua Penganalisis TA Securities, Kaladher Govindan berkata kerajaan berkemungkinan akan mengambil masa untuk menilai impak pelarasan harga diesel dan kesediaan Sistem Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) bagi menentukan kelayakan bantuan tunai sebelum melaksanakan rasionalisasi subsidi RON95.

Beliau berkata, pelaksanaan rasionalisasi RON95 adalah lebih rumit berbanding diesel ketika ini kerana ia akan memberi impak kepada sebahagian besar kenderaan berdaftar iaitu sekitar 36 juta serta menyumbang sebanyak RM66.7 bilion dalam jualan runcit bahan api automotif pada 2023.

Justeru, katanya ia tidak boleh dilaksanakan tergesa-gesa sehingga sistem yang betul disediakan dan kerajaan berkemungkinan



4/7

Pelaksanaan rasionalisasi RON95 adalah lebih rumit berbanding diesel ketika ini kerana ia akan memberi impak kepada sebahagian besar kenderaan berdaftar

Kaladher Govindan

akan melaksanakannya paling awal pada suku keempat tahun ini sebelum di semak secara berperingkat sehingga 2025.

"Kami khuatir kenaikan harga RON95 akan memberi kesan ketara kepada inflasi. Ia membawa wajaran yang lebih tinggi daripada diesel, 5.5 peratus daripada keseluruhan Indeks Harga Pengguna (IHP).

"Justeru, dijangkakan impak yang lebih luas daripada pemotongan subsidi RON95 terhadap inflasi. Sumbangan langsung kenaikan 10 peratus dalam harga runcit RON95 kepada inflasi utama adalah dianggarkan sekitar 0.5 peratus berbanding hanya 0.02 peratus bagi pelaksanaan diesel.

"Jangkakan butiran lanjut

tentang subsidi bahan api dalam Belanjawan 2025 akan datang, yang dijadualkan pada Oktober 2024. Pada masa itu, kerajaan mungkin mempunyai beberapa bulan data inflasi (Jun hingga September 2024) untuk menilai kesan mekanisme diesel," katanya menerusi laporan separuh tahun pasaran TA Securities.

Kaladher berkata, dari satu sudut, ketiadaan subsidi secara pukal berkemungkinan akan meningkatkan harga minyak RON95 sebanyak RM1.25 daripada RM2.05 seliter ketika ini kepada RM3.30 seliter.

Namun, dari sudut yang lain pula, beliau berkata, pelaksanaan rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 dapat memberikan penjimatan yang lebih besar kepada perbelanjaan kerajaan, sebahagian daripada penyatuan dan pembaharuan fiskal negara.

Katanya, dengan menggunakan andaian 20 bilion liter penggunaan bahan api tahun ini, dianggarkan setiap 10 sen kenaikan harga bahan api akan memberikan penjimatan sekitar RM2 bilion dalam subsidi bahan api setahun.

Seperti yang dinyatakan dalam unjuran inflasi, TA

Securities menetapkan harga pelarasan RON95 tahun ini sebanyak 40 sen, melonjakkannya kepada RM2.45 seliter.

"Namun, penjimatan penuh subsidi bahan api sebanyak RM8 bilion hanya akan dilihat tahun depan, yang sudah tentu bergantung kepada kuantum dan masa pelarasan. Lebih banyak dapat diijimatkan jika rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api RON95 berlaku tahun ini.

"Penjimatan ini boleh disalurkan semula untuk mengurangkan hutang kerajaan, menaik taraf infrastruktur atau agenda penting lain seperti menambak baik sistem penjagaan kesihatan, pendidikan serta meningkatkan perbelanjaan pembangunan.

"Walaupun bagaimanapun, kami tidak menolak potensi peningkatan dalam bantuan sosial seiring dengan penyusunan semula subsidi. Program bantuan Budi Madani telah diperkenalkan selain daripada program bantuan sedia ada seperti program Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (SARA) dan bantuan Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) dengan peruntukan RM52.8 bilion bagi subsidi dan bantuan sosial di bawah Belanjawan 2024," katanya.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: ...0.4...JUL...2024..



STADIUM Shah Alam mempunyai 86,000 buah kerusi penonton dan ditawarkan secara percuma kepada PBT, pejabat daerah dan sekolah di Selangor.

86,000 buah kerusi ditawarkan percuma untuk PBT, sekolah

Kosmo
4/7

SHAH ALAM – Kerusi yang masih boleh digunakan di Stadium Shah Alam akan ditawarkan secara percuma kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT), pejabat daerah dan sekolah di Selangor.

Ketua Tanggungjawab Sosial dan Komunikasi Korporat Menteri Besar Selangor (Pemerbadanan) (MBI), Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor berkata, kerusi itu antaranya boleh dipasang di sta-

dium daerah atau astaka.

“Ada yang bertanyakan (ketika) kerja perobohan Stadium Shah Alam, apa jadi dengan kerusi di stadium itu?

“Kesemua kerusi itu akan ‘dis-mantle’ dan diasingkan mana yang rosak, akan dilupuskan. Manakala, kerusi elok akan disimpan di tempat simpanan.

“Kerusi itu turut ditawarkan untuk dipasang di sekolah terutama yang mempunyai astaka

di Selangor,” katanya semalam.

Terdapat 86,000 kerusi di stadium itu dan kerja-kerja pembukaan bumbung dijalankan selepas semuanya selesai dibuka.

Semalam Kosmo! melaporkan, perobohan Stadium Shah Alam yang sebelum ini bertanggung sejak tahun lalu akhirnya bermula semalam selepas syarikat pemaju menerima permit kelulusan daripada Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA).

KOSMO

tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

Kerjasama penduduk, 'dokter pokok' elak insiden pohon tumbang berulang

● Pihak berkuasa, pemegang taruh perlu utamakan pemeriksaan menyeluruh dan program penyelenggaraan bagi menjamin keselamatan pokok di bandar

DBKL
BH
9/7

● Syor kerajaan pertimbang insentif bagi individu mahu mendapatkan persijilan dan menggalakkan arborikultur sebagai sebahagian pendidikan teknikal

Langit petang berubah gelap dan angin mula bertiup kencang diiringi hujan lebat sudah cukup menjadikan warga kota bimbang terhadap insiden pokok tumbang yang pernah meragut nyawa seorang pengguna jalan raya dan mencederakan yang lain di Jalan Sultan Ismail, bulan lalu.

Berdasarkan statistik Angkatan Pertahanan Awam Malaysia (APM), kes pokok tumbang meningkat di seluruh negara. Daripada 3,081 kes pada 2021, ia meningkat kepada 3,358 kes (2022) dan 4,825 kes dengan 10 kematian dan 47 cedera (2023).

Bomba memaklumkan, bagi tempoh empat bulan pertama tahun ini, sebanyak 1,085 kejadian pokok tumbang direkodkan di seluruh negara.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa, dilaporkan berkata Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) menebang 173 pokok berisiko tinggi sejak 2019.

Namun pakar berpendapat, ia tidak menjamin insiden pokok tumbang tidak berulang kerana pembangunan pesat akibat penambahan jumlah penduduk saban tahun.

Presiden Persatuan Arborist Malaysia (PARM), Mohd Zailani Jamil, berpandangan penting untuk melakukan pemeriksaan secara tetap, di samping usaha mitigasi untuk meminimumkan risiko 'kegagalan' pokok di bandar.

"Pihak berkuasa dan pemegang taruh perlu mengutamakan pelaksanaan pemeriksaan menyeluruh dan menjalankan program penyelenggaraan untuk menjamin keselamatan pokok di bandar," katanya.

Mohd Zailani berkata, insiden pokok tumbang sepatutnya menjadi peringatan untuk pihak berwajib menimbangkan keperluan penjagaan akar pokok dalam pembangunan kawasan sekitar.

"Akar pokok adalah penyumbang utama kepada kestabilan pokok dan sebarang gangguan atau pemotongan akar pokok akan menjadikannya mereput serta menjejaskan integriti struktur pokok berkenaan.

"Oleh itu, pelan pembangunan bandar perlu mengintegrasikan langkah melindungi dan memelihara akar pokok bagi mengekalkan kestabilan pokok dalam jangka panjang," katanya.

Sementara itu, Pegawai Penyelidik di Bahagian

Perhutanan dan Alam Sekitar, Institut Penyelidikan Perhutanan Malaysia (FRIM), Abdul Hayat Mat Saad, berkata setiap penduduk sebenarnya bertanggungjawab memastikan pokok bandar sihat dengan menjadi 'mata dan telinga' pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT).

Orang ramai, tambahnya, harus mempunyai pengetahuan asas mengenai kesihatan pokok untuk memastikan keselamatan awam terjamin dan dapat membantu serta memudahkan kerja PBT mengenal pasti pokok 'sakit'.

"Kita boleh menggunakan kaedah penilaian secara visual ke atas pokok merangkumi tiga peringkat: Pertama, melihat secara umum keadaan fizikal.

"Kedua, penilaian 360 darjah, iaitu pemeriksaan sekeliling kawasan pokok secara individu dengan memerhati lebih dekat keadaan tanah, batang pokok, dahan, ranting, daun dan akarnya.

"Jika pada batang ditumbuhi cendawan, pokok itu berkemungkinan besar mengalami pereputan di bahagian dalam. Barulah kita beralih kepada penilaian ketiga yang hanya boleh dijalankan arboris bertauliah dengan menggunakan alat tertentu," katanya.

Beliau berkata, orang awam perlu menghubungi PBT selepas mengenal pasti pokok berpotensi untuk tumbang, menunjukkan tanda hampir mati atau sakit.

"Tidak semua pokok perlu ditebang untuk mengelakkannya tumbang. Keputusan itu mengambil kira keadaan sekeliling pokok dan risiko di sekelilingnya.

"Ada pokok boleh diselamatkan melalui kaedah pemangkasan atau amalan baik arborikultur. Luka kesan vandalisme atau jentera besar pada pokok memerlukan pemantauan kerana pokok akan cuba pulih sendiri.

"Pokok juga seperti manusia, jika berasa tertekan dengan keadaan sekeliling kurang sesuai untuk pertumbuhan, ia akan mula menunjukkan tanda 'sakit' dialami," katanya.

Abdul Hayat menasihati orang awam supaya tidak sesekali memaku gegantungan atau papan iklan di pokok ditanam di bandar kerana akan menyebabkan luka.

"Jika paku tidak dicabut dengan baik dan

ditinggalkan begitu sahaja di batang, ia akan mengundang patogen lain boleh menyebabkan pereputan dalaman pokok.

"Ini akan menyebabkan kesihatan pokok merosot, lalu terdedah kepada potensi kegagalan seperti tumbang," katanya.

Pembangunan tidak sesuai

Bagi Perunding Kepelbagaian Biologi, Surin Suksuwan, pula sebahagian besar insiden 'kegagalan' pokok di Kuala Lumpur disebabkan pembangunan tidak sesuai, diburukkan lagi dengan perubahan iklim memberi kesan kepada pokok matang, tua dan besar.

"Masalahnya berpunca perancangan dan perluasan bandar kerana kita amat bergantung kepada kereta yang menyebabkan jalan raya terus dilebarkan.

"Apabila jalan dilebarkan, biasanya pokok tua perlu ditebang. Ini menyebabkan jalan raya dan laluan pejalan kaki menjadi tidak stabil dan membahayakan pengguna," katanya.

Beliau menambah, perubahan iklim dan hujan lebih lebat di samping pembangunan infrastruktur serta kerja pembinaan bangunan, meningkatkan risiko kerosakan serta kecederaan ke atas pokok tua.

Surin berkata, setiap majlis perbandaran perlu mempunyai arboris untuk memastikan pokok di bandar diselenggara dengan baik.

"Menanam pokok betul di tempat betul adalah penting. Penting juga tahu kaedah memangkas pokok bagi mengelakkan dahan kecil daripada patah dan merosakkan harta awam sewaktu cuaca buruk," tambahnya.

Kekurangan arboris 'dokter pokok' di negara ini pernah dibangkitkan pelbagai pihak, termasuk Menteri Perumahan dan Kerajaan Tempatan, Nga Kor Ming, yang menggalakkan PBT mengambil khidmat lebih ramai pakar itu bagi memperbaiki pengurusan landskap.

Justeru, kata Kor Ming, semua pekerja landskap PBT perlu menghadiri kursus arboris dianjurkan Jabatan Landskap Negara bagi memastikan matlamat itu dicapai.

Mohd Zailani berkata, pada masa ini terdapat 150 arboris diperakui Persatuan Arborikultur Antarabangsa (ISA) di negara ini, berbanding kira-kira 400 di Singapura, jelas menunjukkan kekurangan pakar.

"Di beberapa negara maju, hanya arboris diperakui dibenar mengendalikan pokok awam bagi memastikan langkah mitigasi betul dijalankan," katanya.

Beliau mencadangkan kerajaan menimbang untuk menyediakan insentif bagi mereka mahu mendapatkan persijilan dan menggalakkan arborikultur sebagai sebahagian pendidikan teknikal.

"Di PBT, kakitangan lulus peperiksaan dan menjadi arboris diperakui, perlu diiktiraf jabatan dan skop kerjanya dijadualkan semula untuk memberi tumpuan sepenuhnya kepada arborikultur serta penjagaan pokok.

"Ini menjamin sebarang perancangan bandar dan kerja pembinaan berhemphiran pokok mendapat perundingan sewajarnya serta nasihat arboris untuk mengelakkan insiden pokok tumbang," katanya.

BERNAMA



Rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 mungkin dibuat secara berperingkat



**Butiran lanjut
dijangka akan
dibentang dalam
Belanjawan 2025
Oktober ini**

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Rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 dijangka akan dilaksanakan secara berperingkat dan terukur untuk mengehadkan kejutan yang mungkin berlaku akibat kenaikan harga bahan api itu, demikian menurut penganalisis.

Ketua Penganalisis TA Securities, Kaladher Govindan, berkata kerajaan mungkin mengambil masa menilai impak pelarasan harga diesel dan kesediaan Sistem Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) bagi menentukan kelayakan bantuan tunai sebelum melaksanakan rasionalisasi subsidi RON95.

Beliau berkata, pelaksanaan rasionalisasi RON95 lebih rumit

berbanding diesel ketika ini kerana memberi impak kepada sebahagian besar kenderaan berdaftar iaitu sekitar 36 juta serta menyumbang RM66.7 bilion dalam jualan runcit bahan api automotif pada 2023.

Justeru, katanya ia tidak boleh dilaksanakan tergesa-gesa sehingga sistem yang betul disediakan dan kerajaan mungkin melaksanakannya paling awal pada suku keempat tahun ini sebelum disemak secara berperingkat sehingga 2025.

"Kami khuatir kenaikan harga RON95 memberi kesan ketara kepada inflasi. Ia membawa wajaran lebih tinggi berbanding diesel, 5.5 peratus daripada keseluruhan Indeks Harga Pengguna (IHP).

"Dijangka impak lebih luas daripada pemotongan subsidi RON95 terhadap inflasi. Sumbangan langsung kenaikan 10 peratus dalam harga runcit RON95 kepada inflasi utama dianggarkan 0.5 peratus berbanding hanya 0.02 peratus bagi pelaksanaan diesel.

"Dijangkakan butiran lanjut subsidi bahan api dalam Belanjawan 2025

akan datang yang dijadualkan Oktober 2024.

"Pada masa itu, kerajaan mungkin mempunyai beberapa bulan data inflasi (Jun hingga September 2024) untuk menilai kesan mekanisme diesel," katanya menerusi laporan separuh tahun pasaran TA Securities.

Penjimatan besar negara

Kaladher berkata, dari satu sudut ketiadaan subsidi secara pukal mungkin meningkatkan harga minyak RON95 sebanyak RM1.25 daripada RM2.05 seliter ketika ini

kepada RM3.30 seliter.

Namun, dari sudut lain, beliau berkata pelaksanaan rasionalisasi subsidi RON95 memberikan penjimatan lebih besar kepada perbelanjaan kerajaan, sebahagian daripada penyatuan dan pembaharuan fiskal negara.

Katanya, dengan menggunakan andaian 20 bilion liter penggunaan bahan api tahun ini, dianggarkan setiap 10 sen kenaikan harga bahan api memberikan penjimatan sekitar RM2 bilion dalam subsidi bahan api setahun.

Seperti dinyatakan dalam unjuran inflasi, TA Securities menetapkan harga pelarasan RON95 tahun ini 40 sen, melonjak kepada RM2.45 seliter.

"Namun, penjimatan penuh subsidi bahan api RM8 bilion hanya dilihat tahun depan yang sudah tentu bergantung kepada kuantum dan masa pelarasan. Lebih banyak dapat dijimatkan jika rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api RON95 berlaku tahun ini.

"Penjimatan ini boleh disalurkan semula untuk mengurangkan hutang kerajaan, menaik taraf infrastruktur atau agenda penting lain seperti menambah baik sistem penjagaan kesihatan, pendidikan serta meningkatkan perbelanjaan pembangunan.

"Bagaimanapun, kami tidak menolak potensi peningkatan dalam bantuan sosial seiring penyusunan semula subsidi.

"Program bantuan Budi MADANI telah diperkenalkan selain program bantuan sedia ada seperti Sumbangan Asas Rahmah (SARA) dan bantuan Sumbangan Tunai Rahmah (STR) dengan peruntukan RM52.8 bilion bagi subsidi dan bantuan sosial di bawah Belanjawan 2024," katanya.

Kerajaan mungkin mengambil masa menilai impak pelarasan harga diesel dan kesediaan Sistem Pangkalan Data Utama (PADU) bagi menentukan kelayakan bantuan tunai sebelum melaksanakan rasionalisasi subsidi RON95



Kaladher Govindan,
Ketua Penganalisis TA Securities

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 04 JUL 2024.....

Negara tekad pertahanan kedaulatan

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Malaysia tegas mempertahankan kedaulatan negara walaupun menjalin hubungan diplomatik yang akrab bersama China.

Timbalan Menteri Luar, Datuk Mohamad Alamin, berkata platform sedia ada akan digunakan untuk mengadakan rundingan atau perbincangan bersama China, terutama berkaitan isu di Laut China Selatan.

Katanya, kedua-dua negara ketika ini berunding bagi memuktamadkan kod tatakelakuan (COC) di Laut China Selatan.

"Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi dalam lawatannya ke China baru-baru ini, ada menyentuh soal serantau dan antarabangsa, termasuk isu sedang diteliti kedua-dua negara.

"Malaysia juga akan memanfaatkan kerangka ASEAN sedia ada untuk berunding dan berbincang dengan China," katanya ketika menjawab soalan tambahan Zakri Hassan (PN-Kangar) mengenai pendirian negara susulan tindakan China dilihat memperkukuh kuasa maritim di Laut China Selatan, selain turut menghampiri kawasan luar pantai Sarawak.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 04 JUL 2024

Negara ketinggalan jika tak lakukan perubahan 84 4/7

Malaysia akan ketinggalan di antara ASEAN jika perubahan tidak dilakukan ke atas kemudahan lapangan terbang negara, kata Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azlan.

Beliau berkata, kecekapan sektor penerbangan penting bagi menyokong pembangunan ekonomi.

"Tahap ketersambungan lapangan terbang dalam rangkaian antarabangsa serta kecekapan urusan di lapangan terbang an-

tara penentu pertumbuhan perdagangan dan pelancongan," katanya dalam sesi Kamar Khas di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Katanya, pembaharuan lapangan terbang negara memerlukan pelaburan RM10 bilion untuk tempoh lima tahun yang diharapkan dapat dilaksanakan segera.

"Matlamat utama pembaharuan MAHB adalah supaya lapangan terbang negara bertaraf global dan dapat berdaya saing di peringkat antarabangsa.

"Kerajaan bercita-cita tinggi, harapannya adalah dalam tempoh terdekat, isu berhubung lapangan terbang yang sekian lama dibangkitkan oleh Ahli Yang Berhormat dapat ditangani segera," katanya.

Beliau memberi contoh isu seperti kesesakan di lorong ketibaan Lapangan Terbang Antarabangsa Kuala Lumpur (KLIA), selain terpaksa beratur dalam barisan panjang sama ada untuk mendaftar masuk, pemeriksaan imigresen, menunggu bas peng-

hubung dan di pintu masuk pesawat.

"Semasa saya guna lapangan terbang di Sydney tak sampai 10 minit selepas tiba di lapangan terbang, selesai urusan imigresen. Kita ingin memberi pengalaman terbaik kepada penumpang, proses remeh-temeh di lapangan terbang harus dikurangkan," katanya.

Katanya lagi, teknologi canggih serba moden perlu segera diguna pakai di lapangan terbang bagi memudah cara urusan

dan tidak mencetuskan stres kepada penumpang yang sebaliknya perlu berasa tenang sebelum menaiki pesawat, di samping menikmati kemudahan disediakan.

Keselesaan untuk pengguna itu, tegas Amir Hamzah, bukan sahaja untuk lapangan terbang antarabangsa utama seperti KLIA, Pulau Pinang dan Kota Kinabalu, tetapi juga lapangan terbang domestik lain seperti Tawau, Miri atau Kuala Terengganu.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh..... **04 JUL 2024**...

2 lagi kena reman kes rasuah projek lebuhraya

BH
4/7

Kuala Lumpur: Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) menahan reman dua lagi individu membabitkan seorang pengerusi dan pengarah syarikat sub kontraktor kerana dipercayai terbabit rasuah bagi pembinaan satu projek lebuhraya di Lembah Klang bernilai lebih RM1 bilion.

Suspek yang juga pengerusi syarikat bergelar Datuk direman lima hari bermula kelmarin hingga Sabtu ini, manakala pengarah syarikat pula direman tiga hari hingga hari ini.

Perintah reman dikeluarkan Majistret Irza Zulaikha Rohanuddin, selepas permohonan dibuat SPRM di Mahkamah Majistret Putrajaya, kelmarin.

Sumber berkata, kedua-dua suspek adalah lelaki berusia lingkungan 40-an hingga 50-an ditahan antara jam 9 hingga 12 tengah malam kelmarin, ketika hadir memberi keterangan di Ibu Pejabat SPRM di Putrajaya.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh... 4 JUL 2024

Proaktif tangani masalah kesihatan mental remaja, kanak-kanak

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Pendedahan Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad kelmarin bahawa masalah kesihatan mental dalam kalangan kanak-kanak dan remaja berusia lima hingga 15 tahun di negara ini menunjukkan peningkatan amat membimbangkan.

Jelas beliau lagi, Tinjauan Kesihatan Morbiditi Kebangsaan (NHMS) oleh Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) menunjukkan, jumlahnya meningkat kepada 922,318 orang atau 16.5 peratus tahun lalu berbanding 424,000 atau 7.9 peratus pada 2019.

Susulan itu, KKM mengambil langkah menanganinya dengan kerjasama Kementerian Pendidikan (KPM) menerusi Program Minda Sihat Sekolah, menyediakan perkhidmatan kesihatan mental di 1,088 Klinik Kesihatan, 63 hospital dan 37 Pusat Kesihatan Mental Masyarakat (MENTARI).

Rekod diperoleh NHMS ini membuktikan masalah kesihatan mental tidak memilih peringkat umur dan trend terkini menunjukkan semakin membarah kepada remaja dan kanak-kanak. Hakikatnya, masalah kesihatan mental antara penyakit sudah lama berakar dalam kehidupan manusia, namun menjadi *taboo* atau dipandang serong masyarakat dengan anggapan ia salah satu penyakit gila.

Kajian saintifik sebelum ini mendedahkan terdapat banyak faktor boleh mempengaruhi kesihatan mental termasuk kanak-kanak antaranya kemiskinan, kurang berjaya dalam pendidikan, kelemahan institusi keluarga, genetik dan terkini mengalami gangguan seksual.

Masalah kesihatan mental dihadapi kanak-kanak dan remaja dikatakan akan menyebabkan mereka mempunyai kecenderungan gangguan mental berterusan apabila dewasa. Jika tidak dirawat atau dibawa menjalani pemeriksaan, ia bakal menjejaskan kualiti hidup mereka, termasuk mempengaruhi hubungan sosial, pekerjaan dan kesihatan fizikal.

Bahkan, rekod dan dapatan sebelum ini menunjukkan kanak-kanak dan remaja mengalami masalah kesihatan mental serius berisiko tinggi mencederakan diri sendiri atau bunuh diri, selain boleh mendorong perbuatan penyalahgunaan alkohol atau mengambil dadah sebagai cara mengatasi perasaan negatif.

Setiap pihak terutama ibu bapa dan guru perlu berwaspada dengan tahap kesihatan mental kanak-kanak. Sekolah harus menyediakan persekitaran menyokong kesihatan mental menerusi program kaunseling dan pendidikan kesihatan mental. Komuniti pula perlu menyediakan aktiviti membina dan menyokong keluarga menghadapi anak mengalami masalah kesihatan mental.

Pengarah Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah (JSJ) Bukit Aman, Datuk Seri Mohd Shuhaily Mohd Zain sebelum ini pernah menegaskan masalah kesihatan mental kanak-kanak harus dilihat dan dikaji secara bersama untuk mencari kaedah penyelesaian sistematik.

Kesihatan mental kanak-kanak adalah tanggungjawab bersama antara ibu bapa, sekolah dan masyarakat. Kerajaan pula perlu menambah peruntukan untuk melabur bagi menangani masalah kesihatan mental kanak-kanak dan remaja ini.

Dengan mengambil langkah proaktif dan menyediakan sokongan diperlukan, kita boleh membantu kanak-kanak mengatasi cabaran kesihatan mental supaya mereka mampu menjadi generasi pelapis sihat jiwa dan minda, mewujudkan masyarakat lebih sihat jasmani serta rohani.

BERITA HARIAN
4 JUL 2024
Tarikh.....



ABU SUFIAN
ABU BAKAR

INDEKS Daya Saing Dunia (WCI) yang dikeluarkan oleh Institut Antarabangsa bagi Pembangunan Pengurusan (IMD) adalah sebuah laporan tahunan yang menilai dan mengukur daya saing ekonomi negara-negara di seluruh dunia.

Indek ini menilai keupayaan sesebuah negara untuk mencipta dan mengekalkan persekitaran yang menyokong daya saing syarikat, yang akhirnya mendorong pertumbuhan ekonomi, penciptaan peluang pekerjaan dan peningkatan kesejahteraan.

Laporan itu melaporkan kedudukan Malaysia jatuh tujuh anak tangga dari kedudukan 27 pada 2023 kepada kedudukan 34 untuk tahun ini. Laporan ini turut mendedahkan dua negara ASEAN iaitu Thailand dan Indonesia berjaya menentas kedudukan Malaysia untuk berada di tangga ke 25 dan 27. Pencapaian Malaysia ini dilihat oleh ramai penganalisis sebagai suatu yang perlu diperhalusi dan mencari sebab kepada kejatuhan tersebut.

Terdapat dua badan antarabangsa yang mengumpul data dan melaporkan dapatan berkaitan daya saing iaitu IMD, sebuah institut perniagaan terkemuka yang terletak di Lausanne, Switzerland. Kedua adalah laporan Laporan Daya Saing Global (GCR), iaitu sebuah penerbitan tahunan yang dikeluarkan oleh Forum Ekonomi Dunia (WEF) yang menilai dan membandingkan daya saing negara-negara di seluruh dunia. Laporan ini memberikan wawasan mengenai pelbagai faktor yang mempengaruhi kekuatan ekonomi dan daya saing sebuah negara. Walau bagaimanapun laporan ini diberhentikan penerbitannya kerana perubahan dalam agenda keutamaan WEF.

Untuk memahami kedudukan sebenar yang berlaku ke atas daya saing negara, kita perlu melihat kepada kayu ukur yang digunakan IMD dalam mengukur indeks tersebut. Perbincangan ini akan memberi tumpuan kepada penarafan WCI.

Laporan yang diterbitkan oleh IMD memaparkan prestasi sesebuah negara berdasarkan empat tunggak utama iaitu prestasi ekonomi, kecekapan kerajaan,

Daya saing ekonomi Malaysia masih kukuh



KERAJAAN perlu memberi tumpuan yang lebih khusus kepada indeks kecekapan perniagaan bagi meningkatkan prestasi ekonomi negara. - UTUSAN/FARIZ RUSADIO

KEDUDUKAN INDEKS DAYA SAING GLOBAL MALAYSIA

Komponen Indeks	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Ranking Keseluruhan	14	19	24	22	22	27	25	32	27	34
Prestasi Ekonomi	6	11	13	8	11	9	15	12	7	8
Kecekapan Kerajaan	16	18	25	23	24	30	30	38	29	33
Kecekapan Perniagaan	10	14	19	17	18	29	24	38	32	40
Infrastruktur	27	31	32	33	28	31	32	37	35	35

kecekapan perniagaan dan infrastruktur.

Penarafan yang dilakukan adalah berdasarkan gabungan data statistik dari sumber antarabangsa yang diiktiraf dan tinjauan eksklusif dalam kalangan eksekutif perniagaan dari seluruh dunia.

Tinjauan yang dilakukan bagi memahami persepsi eksekutif terhadap daya saing negara di mana mereka beroperasi. Secara keseluruhan terdapat 336 kriteria yang digabungkan bagi menghasilkan indeks tersebut.

Bagi tunggak prestasi ekonomi, kategori yang digunakan untuk mengukur petunjuk makroekonomi adalah Keluaran Dalam Negeri Kasar (KDNK), pekerjaan, perdagangan antarabangsa dan tingkat inflasi. Bagi tunggak kecekapan kerajaan, ia menilai sejauh mana dasar kerajaan menggalakkan daya saing, termasuk kewangan

awam, dasar fiskal, rangka kerja institusi, undang-undang perniagaan dan kerangka sosial masyarakat. Sementara tunggak kecekapan perniagaan pula mengukur nilai kemampanan dalam sektor swasta, termasuk produktiviti, pasaran buruh, kewangan, amalan pengurusan, serta sikap dan nilai.

Tunggak terakhir adalah infrastruktur, kategori ini menilai infrastruktur asas, teknologi, saintifik dan sumber manusia yang menyokong ekonomi berdaya saing, seperti pendidikan, kesihatan, alam sekitar dan infrastruktur asas.

Berdasarkan data jadual, kedudukan daya saing Malaysia mengalami kejatuhan dari tangga ke-14 pada 2015 kepada tangga 34 pada 2024. Indek prestasi ekonomi masih kukuh walaupun jatuh satu anak tangga, dari kedudukan tujuh kepada lapan pada 2024.

Kejatuhan ini banyak disumbang oleh faktor ekonomi domestik yang mengalami kejatuhan dari tangga 16 (2023) kepada tangga 35 pada tahun 2024. Namun begitu petunjuk perdagangan antarabangsa, pelaburan antarabangsa, guna tenaga dan inflasi masih kukuh malah menunjukkan peningkatan daya saing.

Komponen indeks kecekapan kerajaan mengalami kejatuhan sebanyak empat anak tangga dari tangga 29 pada 2023 kepada 33 pada 2024. Terdapat dua petunjuk yang mengalami kejatuhan yang ketara iaitu Perundangan Perniagaan dan Rangka Kerja Sosial Masyarakat.

Perundangan Perniagaan jatuh dari kedudukan 45 (2023) kepada 50 (2024), sementara pembolehubah Rangka Kerja Sosial Masyarakat jatuh dari tangga 39 (2023) kepada tangga 42 (2024).

Namun begitu daya saing infrastruktur negara masih ditahap rendah iaitu pada kedudukan 35 (2024). Terdapat lima pembolehubah yang diukur dalam infrastruktur, iaitu asas, teknologi, sains, kesihatan dan alam sekitar serta pendidikan.

Bagi mengukur infrastruktur pendidikan data statistik yang digunakan adalah perbelanjaan awam ke atas pendidikan; nisbah murid-guru dalam pendidikan rendah dan menengah; kadar enrolmen dalam pendidikan rendah; menengah dan tinggi; kadar literasi; peratusan populasi dengan pendidikan tinggi; graduan Sains, Teknologi, Kejuruteraan dan Matematik (STEM) sebagai peratusan daripada jumlah graduan; bilangan universiti/institusi pengajian tinggi yang diiktiraf antarabangsa; ketersediaan program pendidikan vokasional dan teknikal; akses internet di sekolah; ketersediaan sumber pembelajaran digital dan platform pendidikan dalam talian; Skor penilaian kualiti pendidikan (PISA, TIMSS) dan tahap pencapaian pendidikan penduduk dewasa.

FOKUS KECEKAPAN PERNIAGAAN

Kerajaan perlu memberi tumpuan yang lebih khusus kepada indeks kecekapan perniagaan. Kesemua lima komponen yang diukur dalam kecekapan perniagaan mengalami kejatuhan iaitu produktiviti jatuh dari 36 (2023) kepada 53 (2024).

Selain itu komponen pasaran buruh jatuh dari kedudukan 30 (2023) kepada 34 (2024) dan komponen kewangan turut mengalami kejatuhan dari tangga 30 (2023) kepada 34 (2024). Sementara itu bagi komponen amalan pengurusan jatuh dari kedudukan 31 (2023) kepada 42 (2024).

Dapat disimpulkan bahawa kejatuhan daya saing Malaysia untuk tahun 2024 banyak disumbang oleh kejatuhan komponen kecekapan perniagaan dan bukan disebabkan oleh prestasi ekonomi negara.

DR. Abu Sufian Abu Bakar ialah Pensyarah Kanan di Pusat Pengajian Ekonomi, Wang dan Bank, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).

Pelan strategik atasi masalah makanan tidak seimbang

UM
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PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan akan memberi fokus dalam Pelan Strategik Komunikasi bagi memerangi masalah beban berganda makanan tidak seimbang dalam kalangan kanak-kanak di Malaysia.

Timbalan Perdana Menteri dan Menteri Kemajuan Desa dan Wilayah, Dr. Ahmad Zahid Hamidi berkata, pelan komunikasi ini adalah penting untuk disebarluaskan melalui pelbagai platform media konvensional dan media sosial.

Beliau berkata, pendekatan ini demi meningkatkan kesedaran, pengetahuan dan amalan masyarakat melalui pelaksanaan program yang merentasi pelbagai sektor juga perlu diambil perhatian.

“Pelan Strategik Komunikasi melalui advokasi secara besar-besaran di pelbagai platform dan program-program jangkauan luar merentasi pelbagai kementerian atau agensi yang berkaitan.

“Pelan Strategik Komunikasi ini disasarkan kepada ibu bapa, penjaga atau pengasuh, ahli keluarga, guru, majikan, rakan dan komuniti,” katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Beliau yang juga Pengerusi Jawatankuasa Khas Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Khas Memerangi Masalah Beban Berganda Mal-pemakanan Dalam Kalangan Kanak-kanak (JKK BBMCK) berkata, sebanyak 31 inisiatif sedang dan akan dilaksanakan melalui 5 strategi.

“Strategi pertama adalah

pengukuhan tadbir urus kesejahteraan pemakanan melalui perundangan, komitmen politik dan pemegang taruh. Strategi kedua pula peningkatan kualiti dan akses perkhidmatan pemakanan bagi memerangi masalah beban berganda makanan tidak seimbang kanak-kanak.

“Strategi ketiga adalah pemantapan persekitaran dan masyarakat yang kondusif dalam meningkatkan kesejahteraan pemakanan kanak-kanak.

“Strategi lain adalah untuk Memperkasakan pembangunan kapasiti dan modal insan ke arah kesejahteraan pemakanan kanak-kanak dan sinergi advokasi pemakanan kanak-kanak,” katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

Kerusi Stadium Shah Alam diberi kepada PBT, sekolah

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UM
4/7

SHAH ALAM: Kerusi Stadium Shah Alam yang masih elok dan boleh digunakan akan diberikan secara percuma kepada pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT), pejabat daerah dan sekolah di negeri ini.

Ketua Tanggungjawab Sosial dan Komunikasi Korporat Menteri Besar Selangor (Pemerbadanan) (MBI), Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor berkata, kerusi itu boleh dipasang di stadium daerah atau astaka.

"Ada yang bertanya (ketika) kerja perobohan Stadium Shah Alam, apa jadi dengan kerusi di stadium itu? Kesemua kerusi itu akan dibuka dan diasingkan, mana yang rosak akan dilupuskan. Manakala, kerusi elok akan disimpan di tempat simpanan," katanya semalam.

Tambahnya, kerusi itu turut ditawarkan untuk dipasang di sekolah terutama yang mempunyai astaka di negeri ini.

Terdapat 86,000 kerusi di stadium itu dan kerja-kerja pembukaan bumbung dijalankan selepas semuanya selesai dibuka.

Utusan Malaysia semalam



PEKERJA membuka kerusi-kerusi penonton dekat Stadium Shah Alam, Selangor, sebelum kerja-kerja merobohkan stadium itu dilakukan. - UTUSAN/AFIQ RAZALI

melaporkan perobohan Stadium Shah Alam yang sebelum ini bertangguh sejak tahun lalu akhirnya bermula kelmarin selepas syarikat pemaju menerima permit kelulusan daripada Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA).

Kerja-kerja perobohan tersebut sekali gus menandakan pembangunan semula Kompleks Sukan Shah Alam (KSSA) yang mengandungi pelbagai kemudahan termasuk hotel dan pusat beli-belah bersambungan dengan Stesen Aliran Transit Ringan (LRT) 3 di Seksyen 13 itu bermula.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif (CEO) Kumpulan MBI, Saipolyazan M. Yusop memaklumkan, kerja-kerja perobohan tersebut dilakukan secara konvensional mengambil kira faktor keselamatan, gangguan terhadap penduduk setempat serta aliran trafik.

Terdahulu, Datuk Bandar Shah Alam, Datuk Mohd. Fauzi Mohd. Yatim dilapor memberitahu Stadium Shah Alam hanya boleh dirobohkan selepas kesemua syarat dipatuhi oleh pemaju termasuk penyerahan pelan secara rasmi kepada MBSA.

Untuk rekod, stadium yang dibina pada 1994 itu bakal Bernama dan berwajah baharu sepenuhnya dengan fasiliti sukan lebih lengkap serta bertaraf dunia.

Stadium yang merupakan rumah kedua pasukan Harimau Malaya itu bakal mempunyai padang boleh alih pertama di Malaysia.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024..

END TO FLOODING, TRAFFIC WOES WITH KSSA

MBSA
NST
4/7

The development runs in tandem with the Shah Alam City Council's master plan to tackle the city's flooding issues

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SET to become a new iconic landmark in Selangor, Kompleks Sukan Shah Alam (KSSA) promises not only to breathe new life into Shah Alam but also elevate the status of the capital city to stand tall alongside Kuala Lumpur.

Once fully completed in 2029, the KSSA, which will house a futuristic stadium with state-of-the-art facilities and a transportation hub, including a new integrated terminal linked to a Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3) line, will also complement ongoing initiatives to resolve problems faced by the people in Shah Alam, such as the perennial flooding and traffic congestion.

The KSSA will also emphasise environmental sustainability, bringing Shah Alam a step closer towards becoming a sustainable city.

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) Mayor Datuk Mohd Fauzi Yatim said the KSSA has the potential to draw more local and foreign tourists and complement MBSA's 2022 master plan to mitigate floods and traffic.

"The spillover from the development of the KSSA will bring a posi-



6 This area will act as a veritable 'water retention pond' during heavy rain. On clear days, this will become a recreational area for the people to organise activities with their families or those who want to enjoy the environment. So this is a unique attraction that can draw many people to Shah Alam.

MAYOR DATUK MOHD FAUZI YATIM
Shah Alam City Council (MBSA)

tive impact and change the image of Shah Alam. Based on its futuristic design and features, the KSSA will become the new iconic landmark of Shah Alam."

One such impact, he said, is on how it will improve the ongoing initiatives to reduce the occurrence of floods in Shah Alam.

Fauzi said this will come in the form of a 4.04-hectare area within the KSSA, which will serve as a water catchment area during downpours. This, he added, will be maintained and supervised by the Drainage and Irrigation Department.

"This area will act as a veritable

'water retention pond' during heavy rain. On clear days, this will become a recreational area for the people to have activities with their families or for those who simply want to enjoy nature and the environment.

"So, this will be a unique attraction that can draw people to Shah Alam," he said.

The old Shah Alam Stadium, he said, had outlived its purpose.

"We see the old stadium with its facilities as no longer meeting current needs. That is why with the KSSA, we can offer even more facilities and benefits to the people, not just in Shah Alam but also beyond,"

he said.

Fauzi said MBSA has formulated a master plan to address the flooding issues, which will involve having the drainage system channel water directly to Sungai Damansara during floods.

"Our current drainage system in Seksyen 13 comprises five water pumps that will be activated in the event Shah Alam experiences overwhelming rainfall," he said.

He said the addition of an integrated transport terminal linked to the LRT3 line as part of the KSSA will have a major impact on addressing traffic issues in Shah Alam.

"This will encourage people to take public transportation instead of relying on private vehicles, thus directly reducing the number of cars on the road," he said.

Fauzi said KSSA's wealth of features can make it a potential tourism draw, thus further boosting local economy.

He said the KSSA will eventually be able to host major national and international events thanks to the new stadium's characteristics, including its transparent roof, retractable pitch and temperature-regulated seats.

"These features mean that the stadium will not only be limited to hosting football or sporting events, but also others (without affecting the football pitch).

"The presence of an indoor theatre also means that the KSSA can make Shah Alam a hub for arts and culture events, making it an even more attractive draw for people to flock to the city.

"We also envision creating an annual programme which can bring together movers and shakers of the arts and culture scene, both local and abroad. This will harness the full capabilities of the new indoor theatre and drive the economy even further," he said.



EXPERTS LAUD KSSA'S GREEN GOALS

They say the focus on environmentally sound practices and adaptability can serve as a model for future developments

904
NST
4/7



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EXPERTS believe that the forward-thinking concept of the Kompleks Sukan Shah Alam (KSSA), coupled with its emphasis on green technology and environmental conscientiousness, can serve as a template for future developments elsewhere in Malaysia.

They also believe that the KSSA's multi-use philosophy is a step in the right direction to ensure its relevance in an ever-changing urban landscape.

Associate Prof Dr Mohd Zairul Mohd Noor, who is the Deputy Dean (Research, Innovation and Postgraduates) of Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Design and Architecture Faculty, said the project's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) reflect the KSSA's commitment to long-term green development.

He drew attention to the three SDG components in question, namely SDG 7 (access

to clean and affordable energy); SDG 11 (making cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable); and SDG 13 (combating climate change and its impact).

"The emphasis on these three components alone reflects the project's emphasis on sustainability, not just on its buildings but also the whole infrastructure, with its integrated plan.

"A mixed development concept such as this will ensure that the project runs in tandem with the Selangor government's zero-carbon emission target by 2050, apart from creating balance by having infrastructure such as a hotel, retail spaces and an integrated terminal," he said.

Mohd Zairul was commenting on the KSSA project, which is set to replace the old Shah Alam Stadium. The new project will offer facilities such as a state-of-the-art stadium, recreational areas as well as commercial and retail premises.

It aims to offer residents an all-in-one experience for each segment of society once fully completed in 2029.

Mohd Zairul, who is also a member of UPM's Green Sustainability

Steering Committee, also lauded the move to make the stadium a multi-use venue, accompanied by other key developments.

"Sustainability appears to be at the forefront here, especially given its focus on oriented development (such as the integrated terminal), which can serve as a draw for the general public.

"The KSSA development also appears to have taken into account environmental concerns, which can only benefit the community," he said.

Meanwhile, Dr Nikmatul Adha Nordin, who is Universiti Malaysia (UM) Urban and Regional Planning Department Senior Lecturer, said the KSSA's focus on flood mitigation and environmental sustainability was a step in the right direction.

She said apart from being a multi-use development, it can at the same time address the issue of climate change, particularly flooding in parts of Shah Alam.

"Any development should place importance on adaptability. The KSSA's ability to function as a temporary flood evacuation centre is a good example of this," she said.

She cited the massive floods which struck Shah Alam in 2021, during which mosques served as temporary shelters for the people.

"I myself was one of the people who had to use the mosques as a temporary shelter due to the floods. This is what I mean by adaptability, in which a development has to serve more than a single purpose," she said.

Nikmatul Adha also highlighted the KSSA's green aspects, namely its 'sponge city' concept which can absorb excess rainfall in its wetlands recreational park, as well as a 10-hectare water catchment area.

"This is an example of an environmentally harmonious development, which uses grass and the natural landscape to absorb water.

"This should serve as a template for future developments," she said.

She also touched on the development's other key infrastructure, such as retail hubs and recreational spaces which are connected to an integrated terminal to promote public transportation adoption.

"This will enable families and visitors to engage in numerous recreational and commercial activities, all with the ease of Light Rail Transit 3 (LRT3) connectivity and more, eliminating the use of cars.

"This can contribute towards ecological sustainability. Previous developments did not factor such aspects in. Retail spaces were limited to just that, as were recreational areas. There was no integration.

"When there is no integration, it means more trips and journeys. Reducing the need for this means that there will also be less harmful carbon monoxide emissions," she said.



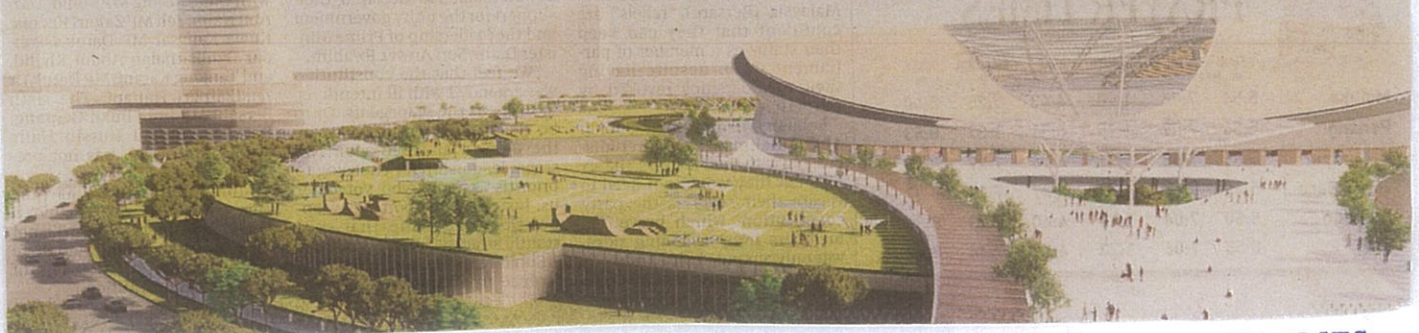
The emphasis on these three SDG components alone reflects the project's emphasis on sustainability, not just on its buildings but also the whole infrastructure, with its integrated plan.

ASSOCIATE PROF DR MOHD ZAIRUL MOHD NOOR
Deputy Dean (Research, Innovation and Postgraduates) of Universiti Putra Malaysia's (UPM) Design and Architecture Faculty



Any development should place importance on adaptability. The KSSA's ability to function as a temporary flood evacuation centre is a good example of this.

DR NIKMATUL ADHA NORDIN
Universiti Malaysia (UM) Urban and Regional Planning Department Senior Lecturer



MARC RATINGS REPORT

'Inflationary pressure expected to rise in H2'

NS
4/7

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's inflationary pressure is expected to increase in the second half of 2024, with pass-through of costs due to the subsidy rationalisation.

MARC Ratings Bhd said while economic activity had been gaining momentum, headline inflation rose to 2.0 per cent in May after hovering between 1.5 per cent and 1.9 per cent over the past eight months.

"This was mainly driven by higher housing and transportation costs for the month, reflecting higher costs in non-discretionary items which could tame discretionary spending.

"Looking ahead, we expect inflationary pressure to increase in the second half, with anticipat-

ed pass-through of costs resulting from the ongoing subsidy rationalisation. Overall, we maintain our full-year inflation forecast of 2.5 per cent to 3.0 per cent in 2024," it said in a note.

MARC said recent economic data for Malaysia was positive, pointing to a firm start to the second quarter of 2024.

Wholesale and retail trade accelerated to 7.5 per cent in April, consistent with the higher domestic-oriented production growth for the month.

On the external sector, Malaysia's exports grew 7.3 per cent in May, riding on higher manufacturing exports, it said, adding there was a broad-based improvement in exports to its major trading partners.

The firm said given signs of calmer United States inflation prints over the recent months, the Malaysian Government Securities (MGS) and US Treasury markets continued to rally in June.

As the 10-year US Treasury yield dropped by a larger margin in June, the negative 10-year MGS-US Treasury yield differential narrowed, which helped stabilise the ringgit.

"We expect the yield differentials to narrow further as MGS yields have stabilised, compared to US Treasury yields that may drop on rate cut expectations."

It added that despite the broad bond market rally, the tightening of credit spreads in the local corporate bond market that began in early 2023 appears to have



bottomed out, as the average credit spreads between MGS and corporate bonds across the term structure remained largely stable.

"We note potentially higher-than-projected government bond issuances in 2024, driven by front-loaded supply in the first half and lower revenue collection for the first four months based on preliminary tax data," it said.

Notwithstanding the present market consensus anticipating

up to two US rate cuts by end-2024, the firm said the market may reassess the recent optimism over the progress of US disinflation.

"Unlike the market, the US Federal Reserve currently projects only one rate cut and higher inflation in 2024. Further US rate cuts remain likely should the labour market weaken significantly as the unemployment rate has risen."

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

Growing the economy

All need to be on board

NCT
4/7

THE Malaysian economy is growing, but not at the pace that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim is expecting. According to Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), the country recorded a first quarter gross domestic product growth of 4.2 per cent, a promising climb from the preceding quarter of 2.9 per cent. BNM's forecast for the year is between 4.0 and 5.0 per cent. Anwar wants the economy to grow a notch higher for the next 10 years. And rightly so, if Malaysia wants to be a high-income nation. What then is the government's economic ammunition for such a trajectory? They are the reviewed 12th Malaysia Plan, the National Energy Transition Roadmap, the New Industrial Master Plan 2030, the 2024 Budget and more. Investments — both local and foreign — especially in advanced technology, are also in focus to give the economy an added boost. If all goes well, high-income jobs may not be too far away.

Local economist Datuk Dr John Antony Xavier says the government has got the focus right. To him, becoming a high-income nation means embracing advanced technology, aka artificial intelligence. For a nation whose economy is driven

One way to do this is to do what Germany did: create a culture that respects technical education.

by small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) — 97 per cent to be exact — this will be a huge challenge. Adding to this complexity is the fact that 80 per cent of them are just beginning to digitalise. Relying on SMEs is no bad thing. Look at Germany, where SMEs have made it the strongest economy in Europe. Sure, we are talking apples and oranges here. Germany's *Mittelstand*, as the SMEs are called there, are giants

compared to our dwarfs. This ecosystem needs a fix. One way to do this is to do what Germany did: create a culture that respects technical education. Ha-Joon Chang, a Cambridge-trained development economist, sums up the reality of growing a national economic pie in one of his writings thus: Nations have to become better at making things in order to raise their standard of living. But direction is important and Anwar is pointing the right way, says Antony Xavier.

Foreign direct investment (FDI), he adds, is one way to import technology, talent and financial capital. For a nation that doesn't have huge domestic funds, FDI gives the added boost for now and the future. And that future — one of innovation — must begin to be built today. High-income nations, aka developed countries like Germany, the United States and South Korea, produce products of high value, Antony Xavier points out. To him, for Malaysia to boost innovation, it needs to spend as much as the developed nations are spending on research and development, which is four times as much as what we are spending now. In the meantime, we must also stop the outflow of talent. To him, the idea that our talent will come back all the richer is fanciful thinking. We agree.

We have got two things right — direction and focus — and what remains is speed. This is not going to happen if all are not onboard the growth train. For sure, economic ideas need debating, but such debates should be to make them become better. To allow distractions to trump discussions can only mean one thing. The pie will never get prepared in time.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

U892	Don Mueang	Kow	Remark
0405	Padang	U-Y	BUKA
0211	Jakarta	U-Y	BUKA
0186	澳門	U-Y	OPEN
5142	K. Kinabalu	S-T	CANCELLED
8036	杭州	Z	OPEN
0860	Krabi	U-Y	BUKA
5242	Bintulu	S-T	DIBATALKAN
6138	Penang	S-T	BUKA
0717	Singapore	U-Y	BUKA
6302	P. Langkawi	S-T	BUKA
0782	Phnom Penh	Y	BUKA
0325	Surabaya	U-Y	BUKA
8560	香港	U-Y	DELAYED
0320	Don Mueang	U-Y	BUKA
0370	Denpasar	U-Y	BUKA
0502	Yangon	U-Y	BUKA
0584	Manila	U-Y	BUKA
	Subang	U-Y	DIBATALKAN



Khazanah Nasional Bhd and the Employees Provident Fund aim to strengthen their hold on Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd by increasing their shareholding from 41 per cent to 70 per cent, with foreign partners holding only 30 per cent. FILE PIC

'NO TAKEOVER'

'AIRPORTS WILL STILL BE GOVT ASSETS'

NS1
4/7

Foreign partners will not take over management of MAHB, says Amir Hamzah

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ALL Malaysian airports will remain government assets, with Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) serving as the operator and manager.

Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan said the government would also continue to hold golden shares in MAHB, which gave the authority to appoint the chairman and managing director, who must both be Malaysians.

He said this during his ministry's explanation in the Parliament special chambers yesterday.

"The claims of foreigners taking over the management of the country's airports is not true.

"The management of MAHB will not be taken over by foreigners and it will continue to be con-

trolled by the government.

"The safety aspects (of the airports) also remains the government's responsibility, and this includes the control of entry and exit of foreign nationals, which is under the responsibility of the Immigration Department and cannot be interfered with by external parties," he said.

Amir Hamzah explained that under the MAHB consortium agreement involving Khazanah Nasional Bhd and the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), foreign partners would not be involved in managing MAHB.

"Therefore, there is no basis to claim that foreign nationals will take over the management of MAHB," he said.

He noted that MAHB had been listed on Bursa Malaysia since November 1999, allowing any party to buy or sell its shares.

However, the consortium led by Khazanah and EPF aimed to strengthen their hold by increasing their share from 41 per cent to 70 per cent, with foreign partners holding only 30 per cent.

"Foreign consortium partners Global Infrastructure Partners (GIP) and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (Adia) will only have minor MAHB shares of 30 per cent.

"(And) the government's stance is firm in safeguarding the interests of strategic national as-

set ownership. Only GIP is deemed qualified under the established criteria where it is ready to invest, become a minority stakeholder, contribute expertise, and release ownership over an appropriate time frame.

"Their expertise, success and experience in optimising efficiency levels at airports are needed to enhance the competitiveness and efficiency of our country's airports," he said.

At the same time, Amir Hamzah also reiterated that Malaysia was firm in not allowing Israeli-owned companies to operate in the country, although it had never prevented any company from investing here.

He said this was demonstrated through the ban of Israeli shipping company ZIM from docking in Malaysian ports since December.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and the cabinet had tirelessly spoken out and demanded world leaders, including major powers, to immediately stop the Israeli regime's atrocities against Palestinians.

"Malaysia also voices its firmness at the United Nations meetings to ensure that Palestine receives the status of a member country, besides fully supporting ceasefire resolutions and consistently channelling humanitarian aid to Gaza."

NEW STRAITS TIMES
04 JUL 2024
Tarikh:

THE interactions between physical and mental health are so numerous that scientists are now trying to assess the extent to which one impacts the other on a daily basis.

Such is the case of recent research led by Swedish scientists, who suggest that women experiencing depression during and after pregnancy are at greater risk of developing cardiovascular disease.

This is not the first time that mental health disorders have been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease, but this new study by researchers from Sweden, Iceland and the United States focuses specifically on women.

The scientists report that women who experience depression during pregnancy and after childbirth are at greater risk of cardiovascular disease, representing one in five women worldwide.

The scientists also point out that this phenomenon can persist for up to 20 years after perinatal depression (depression during pregnancy and after childbirth) is diagnosed.

This research is based on the

Perinatal depression linked to higher risk of cardiovascular disease

analysis of data from 55,539 Swedish women diagnosed with perinatal depression between 2001 and 2014, compared with another group, this time made up of 545,567 Swedish women who gave birth during the same period but were not diagnosed with perinatal depression.

Published in the 'European Heart Journal', the study reports that 6.4 per cent of women with a diagnosis of perinatal depression developed cardiovascular disease, compared with 3.7 per cent of women without such a diagnosis.

The scientists point out that this represents a 36 per cent higher risk of developing such a disease.



Women who experience depression during pregnancy or after birth have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease, researchers say.

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024...

SELANGOR IS BIGGEST GDP CONTRIBUTOR

NSI
4/7

State also surpasses national growth, with a 5.4 per cent increase in 2023

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THE state contributing the most to Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) was also the fastest growing last year.

Selangor accounted for the lion's share of GDP at 25.9 per cent, or RM406.1 billion, according to the Statistics Department.

It also surpassed the national growth, with a 5.4 per cent increase in the period.

Malaysia's GDP moderated to 3.6 per cent last year.

The services sector led the economy, growing by 6.1 per cent (2022: 13.6 per cent) with support from wholesale and retail trade,

accommodation, food and beverage, as well as utilities, transport, and information communication technology.

The manufacturing sector moderated to 2.0 per cent growth (2022: 9.0 per cent), supported by vegetable and animal oils and fats, food processing, beverages and tobacco products, as well as non-metallic products, basic metals, and fabricated metal products.

The construction sector strengthened to 10.2 per cent (2022: 4.2 per cent) driven by all sub-sectors.

Conversely, the agriculture sector contracted by 7.3 per cent (2022: -0.5 per cent) due to declines in the fisheries, crop and forestry and logging sub-sectors.

Five post GDP per capita above national level

NSI
4/7

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia registered a value of RM54,612 for its gross domestic product (GDP) per capita last year, according to the Statistics Department.

As for the performance by state and federal territory, five recorded GDP per capita values above the national level, namely Kuala Lumpur (RM131,038), Labuan (RM83,596), Penang (RM72,586), Sarawak (RM72,411) and Selangor (RM62,492).

"Based on the leading index from January to April 2024, Malaysia's economic outlook for 2024 shows continuous growth in the near term.

"This growth is anticipated, as all components are projected to increase, except for real imports of semiconductors," said the department in a statement.

It said the continued growth is evident in the improved GDP per-

formance in the first quarter of 2024, which recorded a growth rate of 4.2 per cent compared with 2.9 per cent in the previous quarter.

The department said this favourable economic environment also supported stable growth in the national labour market, reflected in an increase in the labour force participation rate from 70.1 per cent in the fourth quarter of 2023 to 70.2 per cent in the first quarter of 2024.

"The unemployment rate for the first quarter of 2024 remained steady at 3.3 per cent, consistent with the previous quarter.

"However, challenges such as global economic uncertainty and commodity price instability continue to be significant factors influencing Malaysia's economic outlook."

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

Measures being taken to stem brain drain: Minister

S.M.
4/7

KUALA LUMPUR: The government feels there is a need to develop a system to determine the number of Malaysians working abroad, in an effort to overcome brain drain, the Dewan Rakyat was told yesterday.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said currently, the country does not have official figures on the number of Malaysians who have gone abroad for work.

Replying to a supplementary question from Roslan Hashim (PN-Kulim-Bandar Baharu), Zaliha said the government has implemented several efforts to curb brain drain, including announcing improvements to the remuneration system for civil servants.

"I agree that we need to curb the brain drain to other countries. We need to develop a better system to track these individuals."

Roslan had asked whether the government considered the brain drain a win-win situation, as Malaysians working abroad return with more talent, experience and skills.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said the government was examining methods to attract skilled Malaysians to return and contribute to the country.

Anwar said the relevant ministries, including the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry, Economy Ministry and the Higher Education Ministry are engaging with those who can contribute, to return and be placed in specific fields of competence to help Malaysia.

Earlier, in response to the original question from Oscar Ling Chai Yew (PH-Sibu), Zaliha said there has been no reduction in the choice of private higher education institutions, where Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia leavers were offered scholarships by the Public Service Department.

She said one of the conditions set for applying for the scholarships is that an institution must be competitive and listed in the QS World University Rankings. — Bernama

THE SUN

04 JUL 2024

Tarikh:

Collaboration on environmental conservation

KUALA LUMPUR: STM Lottery Sdn Bhd (STM Lottery) and the Forest Research Institute Malaysia (FRIM) have teamed up again for a tree planting initiative to support the government's goal of planting 100 million trees, contributing to environmental conservation.

A team of staff volunteers from STM Lottery, led by its deputy general

manager of Communications and Sustainability Giam Say Khoo visited the Kepong Botanic Gardens of FRIM in Kuala Lumpur on June 29 to fulfill their annual commitment to the cause by planting 80 Meranti trees.

The volunteers began their day with an informative session by FRIM head of the Silviculture Branch Dasrul Iskandar Darus, who briefed them on

the best practices for planting saplings effectively.

The tree planting programme not only helped to deepen the volunteers' appreciation for environmental conservation but also to enjoy the beautiful and exotic greenery at the botanical garden.

"We are thrilled with this partnership and we would like to

thank FRIM for providing us the platform as well as expertise in making this event a success.

"The programme aligns seamlessly with STM Lottery's efforts to support the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 13 and 15, which focus on combating climate change and promoting the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems," said Giam.

"Malaysia aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050. Through initiatives like this one, we are making strides toward a greener, more sustainable future," he added.

STM Lottery is unwavering in its commitment to environmental sustainability and since collaborating with FRIM in 2022, the company has planted 200 trees.

THE SUN

Tarikh: 04 JUL 2024

MACC arrests two in RM1b project case ^{Sun 4/7}

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) has remanded a company chairman and a sub-contract company director to assist in investigations of a case involving a RM1 billion highway project in the Klang Valley.

The remand order against the men, in their 40s and 50s, was issued by Magistrate Irza Zulaikha Rohanuddin, who allowed the MACC application made at the Putrajaya Magistrate's Court on Tuesday.

The company chairman, said to be a "Datuk", was remanded until Saturday while the director of the company involved was remanded until yesterday.

MACC sources said they were arrested between 9pm and midnight on Monday after turning up at the MACC headquarters to have their statements recorded.

"They are suspected of giving bribes of over RM200,000 to statutory body officials in return for getting them work on a highway construction project that was previously carried out by another company.

"They are believed to have bribed officials at a highway concession company for the same purpose."

MACC Investigation Division senior director Datuk Seri Hishamuddin Hashim confirmed the arrests and said investigations are being carried out under Section 16(b)(A) of the MACC Act 2009.

He also said the three suspects previously remanded in relation to the investigation were released yesterday, including the highway concession company CEO who is out on a bail of RM150,000. — Bernama

THE SUN
04 JUL 2024
Tarikh:

Call to improve housing for ageing population Sun 4/7

KUALA LUMPUR: The Statistics Department forecast in its 2022 report that Malaysia would become an ageing nation by 2030, with citizens over 60 making up 15.3% of the population.

The report suggests that the percentage of residents aged 65 and older would increase from 7% to 7.3% over the same period.

According to the latest research, it is estimated that there are 3.8 million people aged 60 and over, comprising 11.3% of the population. The number is expected to increase to 8.2 million, or 19% of the population, in the next 20 years.

With only six years left to 2030, experts believe the government needs to make improvements to address the ageing issue, especially in regard to the well-being of elderly residents in People's Housing Programme homes.

Universiti Putra Malaysia Department of Architecture Faculty of Design and Architecture lecturer Mohd Azli Mohamad Jamil said most of such homes built over the last five decades are no longer conducive for habitation, especially for older individuals.

"The elderly often face constraints, including in their physical mobility, access to facilities and healthcare, so these aspects need to be factored in to improve the housing scheme."

The government housing programme relocates squatters and aims to meet the housing needs of the low-income group.

In a statement on March 28 last year, the Housing and Local Government Ministry said since the start of the programme in 1982, a total of 159 projects comprising 99,296 housing units have been completed nationwide, while 27 projects involving 12,037 housing units are being built or planned for construction.

Mohd Azli said although the government is focusing on developing new projects, it should not lose sight of existing housing schemes.

He said if the situation persists, it would create a disparity between new and old programme buildings.

"Rather than just build houses, prioritise the development of the entire programme community, including the ageing population, while investing in the refurbishment of the dilapidated housing projects to extend their lifespan."

He said the features that should be provided include wide door thresholds, non-slip floors, grab bars in bathrooms, adequate lighting and the development of emergency call systems.

Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia Faculty of Technology Management and Business deputy dean (Research, Development and Publication) Assoc Prof Dr Md Asrul Nasid Masrom said residents would feel safe if the government provided high quality housing.

"Many issues are often highlighted, particularly related to the comfort of residents and the facilities provided under programme development. The situation somewhat reflects the condition and quality of the facilities provided, which are at a low level."

"This shows that most existing programme facilities are in poor condition and insufficient to support the basic needs of the residents."

He said a study showed that residents of several programme homes in the Klang Valley are faced with low quality facilities, including unclean conditions, leakage problems and stairs without handrails, which make movement difficult for the elderly.

He added that the importance of addressing issues related to housing facilities must be emphasised to meet the needs of residents.

"A proactive approach is needed as a comprehensive solution. Relevant parties, including the government and residents, need to be aware of how to address the emerging issues."

"Programme residents also need to reflect on what they should do to achieve a better life." - Bernama

THE SUN
8 4 JUL 2024

Tarikh:

Ringgit up slightly as dollar slips on Fed chief's comments Sun 4/7

THE ringgit closed marginally higher against the greenback yesterday as the US Dollar Index slipped slightly to 105.641 points following US Federal Reserve (Fed) chairman Jerome Powell's acknowledgement that the US is back on a disinflationary trajectory.

At 6pm, the ringgit climbed to 4.7180/7210 against the greenback compared with Tuesday's close of 4.7200/7225.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Afzanizam Rashid noted that the market remains cautious ahead of the release of US employment data and the ISM non-manufacturing sector index later tonight, which will provide more clarity on the US interest policy stance. "On that note, the currency markets will remain guarded with the US dollar expected to be well supported," he said.

Meanwhile, the ringgit was mostly lower against a basket of major currencies.

The local currency appreciated further against the Japanese yen to 2.9149/9169 from 2.9195/9213 at Tuesday's close, slipped vis-a-vis the British pound to 5.9895/9933 from 5.9628/9659 and weakened versus the euro to 5.0737/0770 from 5.0556/0583 previously.

The ringgit also closed easier against its Asean peers.

The local note was marginally lower against the Singapore dollar at 3.4778/4803 from 3.4737/4757 at yesterday's close and fell to 12.8346/8466 from 12.8021/8141 against the Thai baht previously.

It also eased against the Philippine peso to 8.03/8.04 from Tuesday's close of 8.02/8.03 and declined versus the Indonesian rupiah to 288.1/288.5 from 287.8/288.1.

THE SUN 4 JUL 2024

Tarikh:

MALAYSIA is experiencing significant demographic changes, notably an increase in the number of senior citizens.

According to the Statistics Department and the Health Ministry, Malaysia is projected to become an ageing nation by 2030.

The World Health Organisation reports a similar global trend: currently, one billion people worldwide are 60 years old or older.

This number is expected to rise to 1.4 billion by 2030, representing one-sixth of the global population, and to 2.1 billion by 2050.

Additionally, the population of individuals aged 80 and above is projected to triple from 2020 to 2050, reaching 426 million people.

As the number of senior citizens grows, issues related to inactive elderly individuals who struggle to support themselves and face challenges in affording medical treatments frequently make headlines.

The elderly play a crucial role in imparting life's core values to younger generations, emphasising the importance of supporting them. Therefore, addressing the needs of the elderly in Malaysia within our families and on a broader societal level is essential. This support underscores the critical role of caregivers.

Caregivers are indispensable in maintaining the health, independence and overall quality of life of senior citizens. They provide a range of services, including medical, dental and nursing care, personal care, companionship, emotional support and assistance with chores, cooking, grocery shopping and transportation.

Caregivers often serve as the primary connection to the outside world for the elderly, especially those who are immobile or chronically ill. Their role is vital for patients suffering from conditions such as stroke, high blood pressure, cancer and kidney failure.

Caregiving is physically and emotionally demanding. Caregivers often sacrifice their time and well-being to attend to the needs of senior citizens, performing tasks such as lifting, transferring, feeding and managing medical equipment.

The stress, anxiety and depression associated with caregiving can take a toll

Critical role of caregivers and support for elderly

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"Caregivers are indispensable in maintaining the health, independence and overall quality of life of senior citizens. They often sacrifice their time and well-being to attend to the needs of senior citizens."



The population of individuals aged 80 and above is projected to triple from 2020 to 2050, reaching 426 million people. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/SUNPIC

on their mental health. Isolation and loneliness are common, exacerbated by the lack of free time.

Economically, many caregivers either reduce their working hours or leave the workforce entirely, leading to a loss of income and benefits.

Additionally, the cost of medical equipment, home modifications and other care-related expenses can be substantial.

Supporting caregivers can enhance the quality of life for both them and the senior citizens they care for. Programmes, grants and other forms of assistance can improve caregivers' physical and mental health, reduce stress and elevate living standards.

Well-supported caregivers are better equipped to provide high-quality care, which in turn reduces mortality rates among senior citizens. Regular care and interaction from caregivers contribute to the mental and physical

well-being of the elderly.

Government intervention is crucial in improving the quality of life for senior citizens. Ensuring access to better health care, suitable housing and social services can make a significant difference.

Comprehensive health checkups, proper treatment and preventative care are essential for maintaining the health of the elderly.

Housing should be adapted to meet their needs, including features like handrails, wheelchair ramps and emergency alarms.

Social services, such as community centres and programmes, provide opportunities for socialisation, mental stimulation and physical activity, enhancing their quality of life.

Caregiving is a demanding and essential task that requires substantial effort, resources and energy. Long-term, sustainable and holistic care for senior

citizens can be achieved through government subsidies and consistent caregiver training programmes.

Scholarships and grants can alleviate the financial burden on caregivers, while educational interventions equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge.

Ultimately, the support of all stakeholders, including the government, caregivers and the community, is vital in addressing the needs of an ageing population and improving the quality of life for senior citizens.

Increasing the capacity of elderly care centres, equipped to handle physical and psychological conditions, is also essential for this endeavour.

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