



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 05 MAC 2025 (RABU)

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Skuad Pantas MBSJ, MPKL laksana simulasi bencana banjir



AZFARIZAL Abdul Rashid (kiri) dan Mazlan Abdul Manap (dua dari kanan) berbincang dengan anggota Pantas Skuad MPKL tentang simulasi yang dijalankan di Tasik Bandar Saujana Putra, Kuala Langat, hari ini. - FOTO/ABDUL RAZAK IDRIS

Oleh ABDUL RAZAK IDRIS 1 Mac 2025, 5:57 pm



KUALA LANGAT: Skuad Pantas Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ) dan Majlis Perbandaran Kuala Langat (MPKL) berkolaborasi menjayakan simulasi menyelamatkan mangsa banjir di Tasik Bandar Saujana Putra, di sini hari ini.

Menurut Timbalan Pengarah, Jabatan Korporat Dan Pembangunan Strategik Majlis Bandaraya Subang Jaya (MBSJ), Azfarizal Abdul Rashid, bencana alam seperti banjir yang dilaporkan berlaku di beberapa negeri kebelakangan ini memerlukan koordinasi komprehensif melibatkan pasukan penyelamat antara pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) di negeri ini.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA ONLINE

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Skuad Pantas MBSJ, MPKL laksana simulasi bencana banjir

"Kolaborasi ini adalah latihan yang berterusan yang mana antara PBT kita bekerjasama dan bertukar pandangan, fikiran dan kita melaksanakan latihan bersama ini kita akan dapat pengetahuan dan pengalaman baharu secara bersama.

"Hari ini apabila kita buat latihan bersama dalam bentuk simulasi menggunakan aset-aset MPKL. Kita dapat 'explore' kepada aset-aset yang baharu selain daripada aset kebiasaan yang kita guna," katanya kepada pemberita sempena Lawatan Kerja Skuad Pantas MBSJ Ke MPKL Mengenai Skop Tugas Pantas MPKL, di sini hari ini.

Azfarizal berkata, hasil program tersebut, anggota Skuad Pantas MBSJ dapat belajar tentang ilmu baharu daripada aset-aset yang dimiliki pihak MPKL.

Katanya, kedua pihak turut berbincang aspek penambahbaikan pengurusan Skuad Pantas masing-masing berdasarkan amalan terbaik kedua pihak.

Sementara itu Ketua Unit Pantas MPKL, Ts. Mazlan Abdul Manap berkata, program tersebut membolehkan kedua pihak mewujudkan kerjasama, berkongsi maklumat dalam melakukan kerja-kerja menyelamatkan semasa kecemasan mahu pun bencana.

"Senario antara kedua majlis iaitu majlis bandaraya dan majlis perbandaran, maka kita dapat kongsi bersama segala pengetahuan yang ada.

"Walaupun MBSJ lebih senior (besar) daripada kita, ada senario-senario kita boleh memberi nilai tambah kepada mereka dan begitu juga sebaliknya," katanya.

Pada program tersebut kedua pihak telah mengadakan program simulasi menyelamatkan mangsa banjir di Tasik Bandar Saujana Putra di bawah kawasan pentadbiran MPKL.

Tujuannya adalah bagi meningkatkan pengetahuan dan pengalaman anggota-anggota Pantas MBSJ seramai 21 orang dalam latihan pemanduan bot dan memindahkan mangsa-mangsa banjir secara lebih sistematik.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA ONLINE

TARIKH: 5 MAC 2025

'Do detailed study before privatising MBPJ crematorium'

By CY LEE

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SELANGOR MCA is urging Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) and Selangor government to engage in public consultations and perform a thorough study on the proposed privatisation of the Jalan 229 crematorium.

The party said concerns from local communities, religious groups and other stakeholders should be considered before any decisions were made.

MCA vice-president and Selangor liaison committee chairman Datuk Lawrence Low criticised the lack of transparency in the decision to privatise, warning it could lead to higher cremation costs for residents.

"The crematorium serves many communities, yet there has been little engagement with those who depend on it," Low told *StarMetro*.

He said the party had received feedback from bereaved families and religious organisations who felt their views were overlooked.

"These groups are concerned about the potential impact on their communities and the affordability of cremation services.

"MCA also calls for the formation of a working group



The MBPJ Crematorium in Section 51A is set to be upgraded. — Filepic

that includes these stakeholders to monitor the privatisation process.

"There should also be a detailed study carried out before the privatisation goes ahead," he added.

On Feb 24, *StarMetro* reported that Petaling Jaya mayor Mohamad Zahri Samingon announced plans to upgrade the MBPJ crematorium in Section 51A with a columbarium, casket showroom, mortuary preparation room, and management office.

The project is expected to cost between RM8mil and RM12mil,

with operations handed to a private company under a 21-year concession.

Mohamad Zahri stated that the city council would regulate prices and oversee the facility.

However, residents and community leaders have expressed concerns about long-term affordability.

Low urged MBPJ to explain why state funds could not be used for the upgrades.

"Selangor's consolidated fund reserves have increased to RM4.13bil, up from RM3.61bil in 2023.

"The state government has set



Low says there needs to be a clear mechanism for public feedback.

a revenue target of RM2.5bil for 2025.

"This suggests the state has the resources to improve the facility without involving private operators," he noted.

Low said transparency was important to ensure public trust and prevent monopolistic pricing if privatisation was necessary.

"There is a need for strong regulatory oversight and transparency to ensure that any private operator is held accountable and that service pricing is subject to regular reviews.

"Additionally there should be a clear mechanism for public feedback and grievances, so that any unjustified price hikes can be addressed," he said.

STAR

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END OF BUS SERVICE

Smart Selangor bus routes SPG 3 (Cyberjaya Transport Terminal to Pekan Salak) and SPG 4 (IOI City Mall bus terminal to Taman Seroja, Bandar Baru Salak Tinggi) will end on March 31. For details, visit MPSepang's social media platforms.

COMPOUND REDUCTION

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) is holding a compound reduction campaign throughout Ramadan. Motorists with outstanding compounds can enjoy an 80% discount on selected compounds and only need to pay RM10 for parking offences. For details, call 03-5513 3919 or 03-5510 5133 (ext 1295/1531).

INNOVATION AWARDS

Selangor government is opening applications for Selangor Innovation Awards 2025 until April 11. All government departments or agencies, private companies, higher education institutions, schools and individuals in Selangor can participate for free. A total of RM66,000 of cash prize are available. For details, visit www.selangor.gov.my

Tarikh: **STAR**
05 MAR 2025

DBKL urged to engage with public over fee hike

By BAVANI M
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STAKEHOLDERS are demanding Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) consult the public and ensure transparency, after it has suspended a shocking 1,200% increase in cremation service charges amid widespread backlash.

Federal Territory MCA deputy chairman Tan Kok Eng said the local authority had failed to consider the impact of the hike on the poor.

"Why did DBKL push through such an exorbitant hike without engaging the very people it affects the most – low-income residents who rely on the Jalan Kuari Crematorium and other DBKL-managed burial facilities?" he questioned.

While welcoming the suspension, Tan criticised DBKL for failing to consult the public beforehand.

"It is good that they put it on hold, but why was there no consultation in the first place?"

"This is a public facility meant for the poor, yet DBKL acted unilaterally without considering the impact," he said.

Tan pointed out that this was not the first time DBKL had attempted such a move.

"Almost 15 years ago, DBKL tried to privatise the crematorium, but the plan was scrapped due to public pressure.

"Now, they are attempting to raise the price by more than

Stakeholders want greater transparency over increase in charges at Jalan Kuari Crematorium



Tan says DBKL must justify crematorium service price hike.

1,000% – which is outright ridiculous because it is even higher than what private funeral parlours charge," he added.

Yesterday, *StarMetro* reported that service charges at the Jalan Kuari Crematorium in Cheras were set to increase by 1,200% from March 1, with cremation fees rising from RM100 to RM1,000 and an additional RM300 daily charge for hall usage.

The total cost of RM1,300 would make it more expensive than private crematoriums, which charge between RM800 and RM1,000 for similar services.

DBKL had also planned to impose a RM1,000 deposit for using the crematorium hall, but



Chin says suspending the hike is not enough.

postponed all the new charges following protests.

Funeral service providers had condemned the hike as "unjustifiable and excessive".

Echoing Tan's concerns, Salak South Village MCA branch deputy chairman Banie Chin said suspending the hike wasn't enough.

"DBKL needs to explain why they thought it was acceptable to impose such a steep increase without a single consultation."

While noting that maintenance costs for such services had increased, Chin said charging more than private funeral parlours was not acceptable.

"Either someone is making a profit from this, or DBKL has lost all sense of what public service

means," he said.

Save Kuala Lumpur (SKL) coalition chairman Datuk M. Ali acknowledged that costs were rising but stressed that DBKL must explain their reasoning for increasing the fees, and the quantum should be reasonable.

"Any increase must be implemented gradually," he said, adding that changes in fees must be fair and not burden the public.

Tan said he would write to Kuala Lumpur mayor Datuk Seri Maimunah Mohd Sharif and the Minister in the Prime Minister's Department in charge of Federal Territories, Dr Zaliha Mustafa, for more information on the matter.

He said he had spoken to Federal Territories MCA chairman Datuk Seri Dr Wee Jock Seng, who has agreed to bring the matter up in Parliament if the matter remained unresolved.

In a media statement, DBKL clarified that the new service and facility charges under DBKL Rate of Charges Standing Order 2025, which took effect on Feb 1, have been temporarily suspended until further notice.

It stated that all charges would remain at previous rates while it reviewed the matter.

DBKL also said that it would announce any further updates in due course.

LEMBAH Pantai MP Fahmi Fadzil has pledged RM10,000 to support cycling initiatives under Kuala Lumpur City Cycling Club.

He announced this during the launch of an upcoming charity cycling event in conjunction with 50 years of the Federal Territories.

During the event at Royal Selangor Club (RSC) in Kuala Lumpur, former national cyclists were also recognised for their contributions to the sport.

Fahmi, who is also Communications Minister, spoke on the importance of supporting sports clubs and associations that benefitted city residents.

He said it was his responsibility as an MP to ensure these organisations could continue their impactful work.

"As a Kuala Lumpur member of Parliament, I see the need for us to support and assist clubs under Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) because our colleagues in DBKL have done much to help the city's residents.

"We as MPs must also contribute towards these efforts," he told Bernama.

Among fund recipients were seven former cyclists.

They included Harris Fadzillah Osman, Musairi Musa, Shahrulnabeeza Razali and Khairulfizar Hashim.

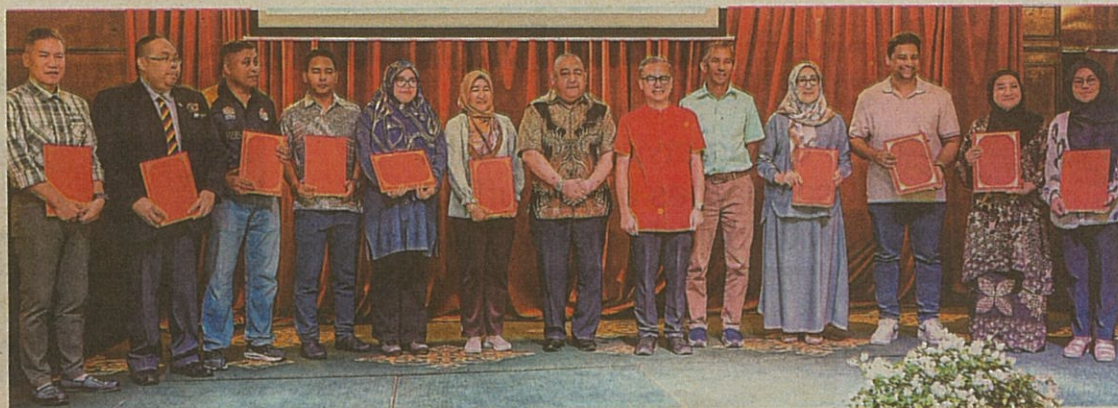
The charity ride, scheduled to take place in September, is expected to attract over 400 participants.

It aims to encourage a healthy

RM10,000 pledged for city's cycling initiatives

5/3
7/2

MP's contribution to assist KL clubs in their impactful work



Fahmi (sixth from right) with ride sponsors and other guests during the launch of the charity ride marking the 50th anniversary of the Federal Territories. — Bernama

and active lifestyle among city dwellers.

Fahmi also spoke on the importance of regular health check-ups and for people to regularly monitor their blood sugar

levels, cholesterol and blood pressure.

He suggested city residents as well as DBKL staff practise a healthier lifestyle through activities like cycling.

Separately, Fahmi acknowledged DBKL's efforts in addressing issues such as traffic congestion and abandoned vehicles in public housing areas.

"As part of the administration,

I am here as both a spokesman and a listener.

"Should there be matters that need to be raised to the Prime Minister or relevant authorities, I am ready to assist," he added.

STAR
Tarikh: 05 MAR 2025

Vigilant watch on bazaars

'Reasonable prices, quality goods' the order of the day

By GERARD GIMINO
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PETALING JAYA: The Prime Minister wants increased monitoring efforts at Ramadan bazaars to ensure no unreasonable price hikes, says the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

It said these were among the matters discussed during a meeting between Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim and Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali yesterday.

"The Prime Minister will also personally visit several Ramadan bazaars to see the price and quality of food sold there, while supporting the small traders.

"The Prime Minister also ordered for more Rahmah Madani sales programmes to be carried out throughout Ramadan and ahead of Syawal," said the Prime Minister's senior press secretary Tunku Nashrul Abaidah during the PMO's daily briefing yesterday. Tunku Nashrul said the Prime Minister also ordered the ministry to increase monitoring and enforcement efforts under Ops Pantau 2025.

"This includes carrying out frequent inspections to ensure the supply of basic necessities is sufficient throughout Ramadan and Aidilfitri," he said.

Tunku Nashrul said the Prime Minister wants intervention strategies to be carried out immediately, together with the Agriculture and Food Security Ministry, if there is a disruption in supply.

"The Prime Minister also wants the min-



Ramadan buzz: Kota Damansara's Ramadan bazaar teeming with visitors and diverse iftar options, from Ayam Tempayan to refreshing air balang. — AZLINA ABDULLAH/The Star

istry to be firm in ensuring traders adhere to the maximum prices set by the government, including for goods under the festive season maximum price scheme, which will be announced later," he said.

Ops Pantau 2025 began on March 2 to ensure traders' compliance throughout Ramadan and leading up to Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

Inspections under Ops Pantau focuses on monitoring, including the supply and pricing of goods, discount sales, the use of weighing instruments, the sale of counterfeit or pirated products, halal labelling, and

the sale of essential items for Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

The ministry will also beef up the presence of enforcement officers at locations frequently visited by consumers, including through the use of STAR Vans (Consumer Complaints and Resolution Squad) and patrol cars and motorcycle patrol units.

The ministry would also optimise the operation of its enforcement command centre, which will be in operation daily from 8am to 8pm, to ensure swift follow-up action on any complaints, information or enquiries from consumers.

STAR

Tari 05 MAR 2025.....

2% EPF contribution not a burden

Anwar: Mandatory savings for foreign workers will also protect locals

By RAGANANTHINI
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KUALA LUMPUR: Mandating Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributions for foreign workers would help the government with record-keeping and at the same time protect the interest of local workers, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim (pic).

He said mandating 2% contribution for foreign workers will allow the government to register foreign workers, with the assistance of financial institutions and the EPF.

He added that foreign workers would be able to withdraw their savings at the end of their employment period here.

"We are bound by international standards such as Article 68 of Convention 102 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)," he said during the Prime Minister's Question Time yesterday.

He said close to 70 countries require contributions from foreign workers.

"We have set the contribution

at a minimum rate of 2% because we feel that 2% would not be a burden," he added.

Anwar said this does not mean that EPF is not paying attention to locals.

He said it is unreasonable to be solely dependent on contributions from local employees.

"We have introduced voluntary contributions in 2024 for the self-employed, whereby 1.2% contributors have made voluntary contributions. We have i-Saraan and i-Suri for the informal sector, especially housewives. This government incentive has hit RM4.16mil," he said.

Anwar also lauded the EPF for its strong performance for 2024.

He was responding to a question from Chiew Choon Man (PH-Miri) on EPF's contributions for foreign workers and whether this will burden employers and divert the EPF's attention from Malaysians.

On March 1, the EPF declared a dividend rate of 6.3% for conventional savings with the total payout amounting to RM63.05bil and



a similar rate for Syariah savings with the payout totalling RM10.19bil.

This is the second-highest dividend payout for Simpanan Syariah since its inception in 2017.

Meanwhile, Anwar also said that the government has no plans to

make it compulsory for Muslim contributors to transition to the Employees Provident Fund's Syariah account.

He said the handsome 6.3% dividend declared for the account would encourage some contributors to make the switch.

"This record will on its own encourage Muslim contributors to transfer their savings to the Syariah account. We don't have plans to make it compulsory," he said.

"But with this (dividend) record and engagement sessions we have conducted, we hope the numbers (of contributors) will increase," he said.

He added it is important to explain to contributors the benefits of Syariah financial instruments.

Anwar acknowledged the pre-

vious criticisms on the performance of the Syariah account, which yielded lower dividends compared to the conventional account.

However, with the EPF's good management, both accounts recorded the same dividend in 2024, he said.

He was responding to a supplementary question from Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin) on whether the government plans to make it compulsory for Muslim contributors to contribute to the Syariah account automatically.

Meanwhile, the Employees Provident Fund (Amendment) Bill 2025, which will mandate the 2% contribution for foreign workers, has been tabled for the first reading in the Dewan Rakyat.

The Bill was tabled by Deputy Finance Minister Lim Hui Ying.

The second and third reading of the Bill is scheduled to take place within the current meeting, which ends on March 6.

The proposed amendment would mandate non-citizen employees and their employers to each contribute 2% of the employees' monthly wages to the EPF.

"Further, subclause 6(b) seeks to enable the employee who is not a Malaysian citizen to withdraw all or part of the amount standing to his credit upon the employee attaining the age of 55 years under section 55a of Act 452," the Bill read.

"Subclause 4(b) seeks to delete subsection 70c(2) of Act 452 to allow an employee who is not a Malaysian citizen who has withdrawn all amount standing to his credit to continuously be liable to contribute without having to give a notice to contribute to EPF," read the Bill.

The proposed law will be applicable to a foreign worker who enters the country temporarily with a work permit.

EPF CEO Ahmad Zulqarnain Onn said on March 1 that based on early estimates some two to two and a half million foreign workers would come under the EPF scheme.

WATCH THE VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



STAR
05 MAR 2025
Tarikh:

AI is key in increasing productivity, says P.M

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KUALA LUMPUR: Mastering artificial intelligence (AI) will be a key factor in increasing the productivity of the local labour force, which is a prerequisite to raising local wages, says the Prime Minister.

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said productivity of the labour force could be enhanced by upskilling programmes and introducing new frontiers such as AI.

"AI is a challenging approach

and even though we have a clear policy, its mastery is limited.

"So, instructions have been given to all research centres, including schools and universities to give emphasis (on AI).

"I am of the opinion that the mastery of AI will determine whether or not Malaysia has the ability to raise its productivity," Anwar said during Prime Minister's Question Time in Parliament yesterday.

He said this was one reason why some new foreign companies had to set up centres of excellence in Malaysia as a condition to operate in the country.

"This is a condition for Nvidia, Microsoft, Google and Infineon," he said in response to Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman (Muda-Muar), who asked if there were plans by the government to raise wages and productivity of the labour force.

According to Syed Saddiq, Malaysia allocated about 0.8% of its GDP to research and development (R&D), which was lagging behind Singapore (2.2%).

Earlier, Anwar said that companies which made significant profits should ensure that their workers are paid fairly.

"Don't record huge profits but pay your workers inadequately. There is a gap where productivity increases are not matched with

wage increases and inflation will affect them. We are taking steps (to address this)," said Anwar.

Anwar also said the national economy recorded a growth of 5.1% last year, which was considered as among the highest in the region.

"Does these positive figures benefit the people? The answer is yes. It created 120,000 new jobs and the unemployment rate was at 3.1% as of Dec last year."

RESILIENT GROWTH, SECURE RETIREMENT S13

By M.MAGESWARI
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KUALA LUMPUR: The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) has once again demonstrated its resilience by declaring a 6.3% dividend for both conventional and shariah savings in 2024.

This marks the highest payout since 2017, exceeding expectations and reinforcing EPF's position as one of the world's most stable retirement funds.

The total payout reached RM73.24bil, with RM63.05bil allocated to conventional savings and RM10.19bil to shariah savings.

This positive performance highlights EPF's robust investment strategies and ability to adapt to economic challenges, ultimately securing the financial well-being of its 16.2 million members.

Sustainable growth

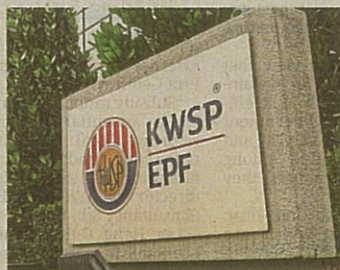
EPF's ability to generate sustainable growth is evident in its investment income, which surged 11% to RM74.46bil from RM66.99bil in the previous year.

The fund's total assets have also grown by 10% to RM1.25 trillion, driven by strategic portfolio diversification and net contributions amounting to RM108.22bil.

A significant 63% of EPF's investment assets are allocated domestically, generating RM37.02bil in income and reinforcing stability amid global economic uncertainties. This consistent growth reassures contributors that EPF remains a reliable pillar of financial security.

Many members, including corporate leaders and professionals, have expressed their trust in EPF's investment strategies.

Heng Hiap Industries Sdn Bhd founder and chief executive officer Seah Kian Hoe lauded EPF's resilience, stating that its ability to navigate economic challenges while maintaining stable returns strengthens his



confidence in long-term financial planning. He reaffirmed this trust by voluntarily topping up RM100,000 last year and again this year, further solidifying EPF as his preferred retirement savings vehicle.

Engineering manager M. Logeswaran appreciates EPF's well-executed investment strategies, reinforcing his belief that his hard-earned money is working for him.

Retiree Prabaker Rao emphasises that a comfortable retirement isn't left to chance but is built through careful planning and a trusted financial partner.

He highlights that EPF contributors benefit from mandatory 11% contributions and can start saving as early as 14 years old, ensuring a strong financial foundation for the future.

Tunku Abdul Rahman University of Management and Technology principal lecturer Satwant Singh points out how EPF's long-term stability empowers him to focus on his profession, knowing his future is secure.

Executive Noorfarahana Zulkifle sees EPF's prudent financial management as a source of peace of mind, allowing her to plan ahead with confidence.

For young professionals like software developer Jason Lee, the fund's strong performance reassures him that his early

investments will yield solid returns, strengthening his financial foundation.

Ensuring long-term financial security

As Malaysia's population ages, with projections indicating that 17.3% will be aged 60 and above by 2040, the need for sound financial planning has never been more urgent.

EPF's commitment to sustainable dividends and innovative financial literacy programmes ensures that contributors are better equipped to plan for their retirement.

Initiatives such as flexible withdrawal options and digital enhancements empower members to make informed financial decisions, reinforcing EPF's role as more than just a retirement fund — it is a comprehensive financial safety net.

Optimising EPF strategies

To further strengthen EPF's long-term performance, several key strategies can be explored:

> **Enhanced financial literacy programmes:** strengthening financial education across all age groups will equip contributors with essential knowledge to make informed investment and retirement decisions

> **Diversified global investments:** increasing exposure to high-growth international markets can mitigate risks and enhance long-term returns, ensuring the sustainability of dividend payouts

> **Higher contribution incentives:** offering tax benefits, employer-matching schemes, or structured top-up plans can encourage voluntary savings and improve retirement adequacy

> **Technology-driven services:** leveraging AI-powered analytics and digital tools can provide personalised financial planning insights and enhance accessibility for contributors

> **Flexible retirement options:** introducing phased withdrawals and staggered pension plans can allow contributors to manage post-retirement income more effectively

> **Expanding domestic investments:** strengthening investments in key national sectors such as infrastructure, renewable energy and technology — while exploring new opportunities — can drive economic growth and enhance stable returns for EPF members

> **Greater customisation of savings plans:** providing members with tailored savings strategies based on individual risk appetites, life stages and retirement goals can improve financial outcomes

> **Strengthened risk management strategies:** adapting investment policies to global economic shifts and inflationary pressures will help sustain stable returns and protect contributors' long-term savings.

EPF's 2024 performance reinforces its role as a trusted pillar of financial security for Malaysians.

As economic landscapes evolve, continuous enhancements in financial literacy, investment diversification and digital innovation will be crucial in ensuring sustainable growth.

Moving forward, contributors must take an active role in their financial planning — maximising EPF's benefits, making informed decisions and considering voluntary top-ups to strengthen their retirement savings.

At the same time, EPF must remain proactive in adapting to global trends, embracing innovation and ensuring stable returns for long-term financial security.

By advancing these initiatives, EPF can further solidify its reputation as one of the world's leading provident funds, safeguarding the financial well-being of millions for generations to come.

STAR
05 MAR 2025

Tarikh:

Action plan activated to monitor open burning 5/3 Star

PUTRAJAYA: The National Open Burning Action Plan (PIPTK) has been activated to enable all parties to increase monitoring of open burning, which can affect air quality and public health.

Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability Minister Nik Nazmi Nik Ahmad (*pic*) said the plan was activated on Feb 21 to enable ministries, departments, relevant agencies and the state governments to take precautionary measures and prevent open burning.

He said the standard operating procedure (SOP) for implementing the Peatland Fire Prevention Programme to Overcome Haze in Malaysia has also been activated

by the Environment Department (DOE) since Feb 26.

"DOE has also increased enforcement actions and monitoring activities via land and air using drones as well as monitoring air pollution index (API) readings from time to time.

"Coordination between relevant agencies to plan fire extinguishing and control works has also been carried out," he said in a statement that was reported by Bernama yesterday following the API in Balok Baru, Kuantan, Pahang recording unhealthy readings



following a peatland fire at the Cherating Coconut Plantation in the state.

Regarding the fire, Nik Nazmi said extinguishing efforts were being actively carried out by the Fire and Rescue Department through firefighting, water bombing and flooding works in the

fire area in collaboration with the Public Works Department and the Irrigation and Drainage Department.

Following the API readings reaching 201 to 300 in Balok Baru on Monday, DOE has issued

Warning Notification Notes 3A and 3B to the National Disaster Control Centre (NDCC), National Disaster Management Agency (Nadma) for the announcement of Disaster Operational Preparedness Notices at the state and district levels.

"This announcement is also intended to enable the District or State Disaster Management Committee to be activated and ensure that actions can be implemented according to the National Haze Action Plan," he said.

Nik Nazmi said he would chair the National Haze and Dry Weather Main Committee Meeting No 1 of 2025 today.

STAR

Tarikh 05 MAR 2025.....

ISU kekurangan tempat letak kenderaan di Pangsapuri Blok C dan D, Taman Petaling Utama, PJS 1/52 di Petaling Jaya, Selangor terus membelenggu penduduk, dengan ramai antara mereka tidak mampu membayar saman akibat meletakkan kenderaan di bahu jalan.

Menerusi Apa Khabar Rakyat minggu ini, wartawan *Sinar Harian*, MOHD AZLIM ZAINURY menyingkap keluhan dan luahan penghuni, yang sudah lali dengan tindakan saman tetapi masih menantikan penyelesaian yang berkesan daripada pihak berkuasa.

BEBERAPA lot parkir yang sepatutnya digunakan oleh penghuni turut disalahgunakan sebagai tempat menyimpan kenderaan rosak.

Hal ini menyebabkan penghuni lain tidak mempunyai pilihan selain meletakkan kenderaan di luar kawasan pangsapuri, sekali gus terdedah kepada risiko dikenakan saman oleh pihak berkuasa tempatan atau polis.

Wakil Jawatankuasa Bertindak Pangsapuri Blok C dan D, Sugumaran S Muniandy, 56, berkata, masalah ini berlarutan sejak sekian lama disebabkan kekurangan lot parkir berbanding jumlah rumah di pangsapuri tersebut.

"Hanya terdapat 300 lot tempat meletak kereta, sedangkan jumlah unit kediaman di sini adalah 625. Akibatnya, ramai penghuni terpaksa meletakkan kenderaan di bahu jalan utama dan akhirnya dikenakan saman oleh pihak Majlis Bandaraya Petaling Jaya (MBPJ).

"Saman yang diterima semakin banyak dan mustahil untuk dijelaskan kerana kebanyakan kami terdiri daripada golongan B40," katanya ketika ditemui pada Ahad.

Seorang lagi penduduk, Muniamah Maniam, 47, meluahkan rasa kecewa kerana ada individu yang tidak bertanggungjawab meletakkan kenderaan rosak di kawasan parkir, malah ada yang menggunakannya sebagai stor barang peribadi dan perniagaan.

"Keadaan ini amat menyusahkan penghuni lain. Mereka yang pulang bekerja lewat malam, tiada pilihan terpaksa meletakkan kereta di mana-mana sahaja, termasuk di kawasan pembuangan sampah.

"Kadang-kadang lori sampah tidak dapat masuk kerana ada kereta menghalang laluan, menyebabkan penduduk terpaksa membuat parkir secara ber-

'Sampai bila kami nak bayar saman parkir?'



Penduduk terpaksa meletakkan kenderaan secara berlapis kerana kekurangan parkir.



SUGUMARAN

MUNIAMAH

lapis," katanya.

Muniamah turut mencadangkan agar pihak berkuasa menyediakan laluan bas awam supaya melalui kawasan perumahan mereka bagi mengurangkan ketergantungan terhadap kenderaan persendirian.

"Salah satu punca ramai penduduk memiliki kereta adalah kerana tiada pengangkutan awam yang melalui kawasan ini.

"Jika ada bas yang melalui jalan utama di PJS 1, lebih ramai penghuni boleh menggunakan perkhidmatan tersebut dan tidak lagi perlu memiliki lebih daripada satu kenderaan dalam satu isi rumah," katanya.



Di pangsapuri ini, hanya terdapat 300 lot parkir sedangkan jumlah kediaman 625 unit.

SINAR HARIAN

05 MAR 2025

Tarikh:

Penduduk cadang bina parkir bertingkat di kawasan lapang

SELAIN cadangan perkhidmatan bas, penduduk juga berharap pihak MBPJ dan kerajaan negeri dapat membina parkir bertingkat di kawasan lapang berhadapan Blok C dan D.

Menurut Sugumaran, tapak kosong itu asalnya adalah kawasan pembinaan pangsapuri Blok E, namun projek tersebut terbengkalai.

"Pihak berkuasa boleh membina tempat letak kereta bertingkat

di kawasan tersebut dan menguruskannya secara sistematik dan berbayar pada kadar munasabah.

"Ini bukan sahaja menyelesaikan isu tempat letak kereta tetapi juga mengurangkan jumlah saman yang terpaksa ditanggung penduduk," katanya.

Seorang lagi penghuni, Mahendran Subramaniam, 62, turut menyokong cadangan tersebut kerana masalah parkir di kawasan itu bukanlah isu baharu.

"Kami mohon bantuan kerajaan negeri untuk menyelesaikan masalah ini. Setiap kali meletakkan kereta di bahu jalan, kami akan disaman.

"Ini membebankan penduduk, terutama mereka yang berpendapatan rendah," ujarnya.

Penduduk berharap isu ini mendapat perhatian serius pihak berkuasa agar penyelesaian jangka panjang dapat dicapai bagi menjamin kesejahteraan mereka.



MAHENDRAN

24 5/3 (mbp)

Sultan Selangor berkenan terima zakat perniagaan WHB RM2.9 juta

SHAH ALAM - Anak syarikat kerajaan negeri, Worldwide Holdings Berhad (WHB) menunaikan zakat perniagaan berjumlah RM2.9 juta kepada Lembaga Zakat Selangor (LZS) bagi tahun 2025 haul 2024.

Penyerahan bayaran zakat oleh anak syarikat Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Selangor (PKNS) disempurnakan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan WHB, Datin Paduka Norazlina Zakaria kepada Sultan Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah bertempat di Masjid Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah pada Isnin.

Menurut Norazlina, kejayaan sesebuah syarikat tidak hanya diukur dari segi keuntungan, namun sumbangan dan tanggungjawab sosial kepada masyarakat.

"Sumbangan zakat ini merupakan sebahagian komitmen jangka panjang syarikat membangunkan masyarakat secara lestari dan progresif serta memperkukuhkan

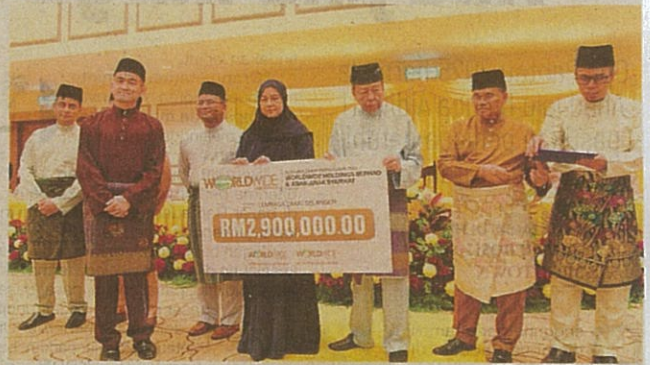
kesejahteraan sosial di Selangor.

"WHB berusaha dalam memenuhi misi menyumbang semula kepada rakyat Selangor dan membantu LZS merealisasikan dan mengembangkan perancangan berkaitan pembangunan sosio ekonomi golongan asnaf seperti inisiatif pendidikan dan sosial.

"Ia terutamanya menerusi pelbagai aktiviti dilaksanakan di bawah program tanggungjawab sosial korporat (CSR) iaitu Worldwide Prihatin," katanya.

Tambah Norazlina, antara inisiatif itu termasuk kerjasama strategik WHB bersama Yayasan Raja Muda Selangor (YRMS) bagi menyediakan alat bantuan pendidikan untuk pelajar golongan asnaf, fakir dan miskin.

Katanya, setiap tahun WHB merupakan penaja bersama Pesta Buku Antarabangsa Selangor (SIBF) dan penderma penubuhan Yayasan Perpustakaan Raja Tun Uda.



WHB menunaikan zakat perniagaan berjumlah RM2.9 juta kepada LZS bagi tahun 2025 haul 2024.

KWSP boleh beri pertimbangan khas

FOTO: BERNAMA

Benarkan pencarum tertentu keluarkan simpanan untuk kes-kes kritikal, mendesak

Oleh NURHIDAYAH HAIROM
KUALA LUMPUR

84 5/3 ①

Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) boleh memberi pertimbangan khas kepada pencarum untuk mengeluarkan dana simpanan bagi kes-kes kritikal atau mendesak meskipun di luar syarat dan kaedah sedia ada.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, beliau percaya sekiranya terdapat kes-kes tertentu, pertimbangan boleh diberikan KWSP untuk membenarkan pencarum yang benar-benar terdesak untuk mengeluarkan simpanan mereka.

"Kalau ada spesifik (kes) yang dibangkitkan (Ahli Parlimen) Padang Terap, saya percaya KWSP boleh memberikan pertimbangan seperti mana yang mereka lakukan sekarang."

"Kata (dalam) keadaan mendesak, walaupun tak ikut kaedah yang diberikan sekarang," kata Anwar ketika Sesi Waktu Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Menteri di Dewan Rakyat di sini pada Selasa.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Nurul Amin Hamid (PN-Padang Terap)

yang ingin tahu pertimbangan kerajaan terhadap pengeluaran akaun KWSP bagi kumpulan masyarakat yang terdesak dengan kos sara hidup.

Antaranya, pencarum yang diberhentikan kerja dan tidak mempunyai pendapatan tetapi mempunyai wang simpanan KWSP.

Anwar bagaimanapun berkata, membuka ruang terlalu luas untuk akses pengeluaran dana KWSP hanya akan 'menghukum' pencarum apabila bersara kelak.

Justeru, ujan, kerajaan perlu melakukan keseimbangan antara menyelesaikan masalah mendesak pencarum dengan segera atau pencarum tidak lagi mempunyai simpanan mencukupi pada hari tua.

"Prinsip yang saya pegang dari awal semasa menjadi Menteri Kewangan, tidak ada kelonggaran berlebihan (diberikan) kerana prinsip KWSP ini juga adalah simpanan untuk hari tua."

(Namun) ada kalanya beberapa pengecualian dan kelonggaran diberikan. Banyak kes-kes rayuan khusus diberi pertimbangan khas terutamanya dalam keadaan uzur dan sebagainya.

"Tetapi membuka ruang yang terlalu luas bermakna kita akan menghukum mereka apabila mereka beransur tua dan bersara," ujarnya.

Jelas beliau, dividen tahun 2024 sebanyak 6.3 peratus yang diumumkan baru-baru ini memberi fahaman lebih jelas kepada pencarum bahawa simpanan KWSP akan memberikan hasil yang lumayan kepada mereka.

"KWSP sudah mengeluarkan kenyataan bahawa majoriti pencarum terutamanya



Anwar ketika sesi jawab lisan pada Mesyuarat Pertama Penggal Keempat Parlimen ke-15 di Dewan Rakyat pada Selasa.



Dividen sebanyak 6.3 peratus memberi fahaman lebih jelas kepada pencarum bahawa simpanan KWSP akan memberikan hasil yang lumayan kepada mereka. - Gambar hiasan

dalam masyarakat Melayu yang mempunyai simpanan sangat kecil.

"Membuka ruang itu (memberi ke-

longgaran) akan menimbulkan masalah dalam beberapa tahun lagi tatkala mereka bersara," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN
5 MAR 2025

Tarikh:

Kajian lengkap perlu dibuat

84 5/3
②

FOTO: BERNAMA



KWSP sudah tentu mempunyai syarat-syarat ketat untuk membuktikan bahawa pencarum benar-benar terdesak untuk membuat sebarang pengeluaran. - Gambar hiasan

Dasar sekarang perlu dilihat sama ada mencukupi atau untuk benarkan dana KWSP digunakan

Oleh MUKHRIZ MAT HUSIN
SHAH ALAM

Kajian menyeluruh perlu dibuat terlebih dahulu untuk melihat kewajaran membenarkan pencarum mengeluarkan simpanan Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) bagi kes-kes kritikal atau mendesak.

Ketua Ahli Ekonomi Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd, Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid berkata, ini termasuk kemungkinan menambah dasar baharu bagi kes-kes tertentu seperti pencarum kehilangan pekerjaan.

Namun, menurut beliau, Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO) sudah pun mempunyai dasar bagi membantu golongan terbabit menerusi Skim Insurans Pekerjaan (EIS).

"Kalau ditanya apa lagi perlu ditambah baik dengan menggunakan simpanan KWSP ini, saya rasa satu kajian menyeluruh perlu dibuat. Sebelum ini pihak KWSP sering menekankan bahawa ramai pencarum tidak memenuhi simpanan asas untuk persaraan.

"Saya faham niat untuk membantu itu

baik, tetapi kena betul-betul jelas dasar sedia ada sekarang ini mencukupi atau tidak. Jika ada keperluan, mungkin boleh difikirkan bagaimana cara untuk menggunakan dana KWSP itu," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian* pada Selasa.

Beliau berkata demikian mengulas mengenai pertimbangan kerajaan terhadap pengeluaran akaun KWSP bagi pencarum yang terdesak dengan kos sara hidup seperti diberhentikan kerja dan tidak mempunyai pendapatan.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim pada Selasa berkata, KWSP boleh memberi pertimbangan khas bagi pengeluaran dana simpanan melibatkan kes-kes tertentu yang kritikal meskipun di luar syarat dan kaedah sedia ada.

Sementara itu, Mohd Afzanizam berpandangan, KWSP tidak perlu memperkenalkan sebarang skim pengeluaran baharu bagi kes-kes kritikal.

Menurut beliau, Akaun Fleksibel atau Akaun 3 KWSP yang diperkenalkan sudah pun merangkumi pelbagai tujuan pengeluaran tanpa melalui syarat ketat.

"10 peratus duit daripada caruman masuk dalam Akaun 3. Daripada situ kita sudah boleh mengeluarkannya pada bila-bila masa walaupun tanpa tujuan khusus," katanya.

Tambah beliau, KWSP sudah pasti mempunyai syarat-syarat ketat untuk membuktikan bahawa pencarum benar-benar terdesak untuk membuat sebarang pengeluaran.



MOHD AFZANIZAM

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 05 MAR 2025

Wartawan perlu berintegriti, tolak ganjaran wang

Lapor berita berlandaskan
kebenaran bukan
kepentingan pihak tertentu

Oleh **NURUL NABILA AHMAD HALIMY
SHAH ALAM**

Pengamal media perlu mempunyai prinsip integriti yang tinggi dengan menolak ganjaran berbentuk wang agar laporan berita kekal berlandaskan kebenaran serta tidak dipengaruhi oleh kepentingan pihak tertentu.

Pengerusi Gabungan Rasuah Busters Selangor, Wilayah Persekutuan dan Putrajaya, Profesor Dr Hamdan Daniel M Sharib berkata, kewibawaan pengamal media akan terhakis tanpa jati diri yang kukuh sekali gus menjejaskan kredibiliti industri kewartawanan secara keseluruhan.

"Orang" ramai bergantung kepada laporan wartawan dan organisasi berita sebagai sumber rujukan untuk mendapatkan maklumat sahih. Justeru, jika rasuah wujud dalam industri media, ia pasti memberi kesan negatif kepada kesejahteraan awam.

"Sekiranya kes rasuah terus berlaku, ia akan menjejaskan reputasi serta kepercayaan awam terhadap laporan yang disiarkan media. Masyarakat juga akan hilang hormat terhadap tulisan dan saranan pengamal media," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

**RASUAH
BUSTERS**

Pada Sabtu, Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) menahan reman seorang wartawan sebuah portal berita kerana disyaki meminta dan menerima rasuah kira-kira RM20,000.

Wang itu didakwa sebagai balasan untuk menurunkan artikel yang dimuat naik serta tidak lagi menulis mengenai sebuah agensi pekerja asing dikaitkan dengan sindiket.

Ketua Pesuruhjaya SPRM, Tan Sri Azam Baki mengesahkan penahanan tersebut dan kes disiasat di bawah Seksyen 16(a)(A) Akta SPRM 2009 dengan wang tunai berjumlah kira-kira RM20,000 itu telah disita.

Bagaimanapun wartawan berkenaan dibebaskan pada Selasa selepas tempoh remannya tamat.

Sementara itu, Hamdan Daniel berkata, pengamal media perlu berpegang kepada prinsip ketelusan serta meletak-

kan kepentingan awam sebagai keutamaan bagi memastikan industri tersebut bebas daripada gejala rasuah.

"Walau apa jua sogokan ditawarkan, media harus menolaknya dengan penuh tanggungjawab dan amanah bagi memastikan laporan yang disampaikan tepat serta sahih.

"Media di Malaysia telah memainkan peranan penting dalam menjaga kesejahteraan rakyat. Jangan biarkan kes seperti ini berulang sehingga menghakik kepercayaan awam terhadap kewibawaan pengamal media," ujarnya.

Justeru beliau mencadangkan agar satu badan khas ditubuhkan bagi memantau etika kewartawanan.

"Badan khas ini bertujuan menyediakan bimbingan serta garis panduan kepada wartawan.

"Langkah ini juga dapat membantu meningkatkan profesionalisme dan kredibiliti media," katanya.

FOTO: BERNAMA



Kewibawaan media akan terhakis jika rasuah wujud dalam kalangan pengamalnya.

Tiada cadangan wajibkan pencarum Islam pilih simpanan syariah

KUALA LUMPUR - Kerajaan tidak bercadang mewajibkan pencarum Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) yang beragama Islam memilih simpanan syariah, kata Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Beliau bagaimanapun berkata, kadar dividen yang sama antara Simpanan

Konvensional dan Simpanan Syariah KWSP untuk tahun 2024 iaitu sebanyak 6.3 peratus mampu menarik minat pencarum untuk beralih kepada simpanan syariah.

"Alhamdulillah, pengurusan KWSP pertama kalinya kita catat dividen yang sama antara konvensional dan syariah. Dulu kita dikritik disebabkan perbezaan ini.

"Bagi saya, kesan ini penting

kerana rekod ini dengan sendirinya akan memberi galakan kepada umat Islam untuk memindahkan (simpanan mereka) kepada simpanan syariah. Sebab itu kita tidak bercadang untuk mewajibkan (syariah).

"Dengan bukti ini dan beberapa siri galakan serta penerangan, kita harapkan jumlah ini (pencarum syariah) akan dapat ditambah. Tidak ada dasar untuk

mewajibkan tapi menggalakan," katanya ketika Waktu Pertanyaan-Pertanyaan Menteri di Dewan Rakyat di sini pada Selasa.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan daripada **Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin)** yang bertanya sama ada kerajaan bercadang mewujudkan satu dasar baharu mewajibkan umat Islam menca-
rur dalam simpanan syariah

secara automatik.

Pada Sabtu, KWSP mengumumkan kadar dividen 2024 yang sama bagi Simpanan Konvensional dan Simpanan Syariah KWSP, masing-masing sebanyak 6.3 peratus.

Kadar tersebut mencatat sejarah kerana sejak Simpanan Syariah KWSP diperkenalkan pada tahun 2017, dividennya lebih rendah berbanding simpanan konvensional.

Anwar arah arah pantau harga makanan di Bazar Ramadan

Kosmo 5/3
PETALING JAYA – Perdana Menteri mengarahkan pemantauan harga makanan di Bazar Ramadan dipertingkat bagi mengelakkan pihak tertentu mengambil kesempatan menaikkan harga secara tidak wajar.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, pihaknya sendiri akan melawat beberapa Bazar Ramadan bagi melihat sendiri harga dan kualiti makanan secara langsung, di samping memberikan sokongan kepada peniaga kecil.

Perkara itu disampaikan melalui Taklimat Harian Pejabat Perdana Menteri (PMO) oleh Setiausaha Akhbar Kanan kepada Perdana Menteri, Tunku Nashrul Abaidah semalam.

"Perdana Menteri telah mengadakan pertemuan dengan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup (KPDN), Datuk Armizan Mohd. Ali bagi membincangkan isu-isu utama berkaitan kos sara hidup rakyat.

"Dalam pertemuan ini, beliau mengarahkan KPDN untuk menggandakan pemantauan dan penguatkuasaan menerusi Ops Pantau 2025," katanya.

Itu termasuk memastikan pemantauan dilakukan lebih kerap bagi menjamin bekalan barangan keperluan rakyat sepanjang Ramadan dan Aidilfitri sentiasa mencukupi.

"Perdana Menteri mahu strategi intervensi dilaksanakan segera bersama Kementerian Pertanian dan Keterjaminan Makanan (KPKM) sekiranya terdapat gangguan bekalan.

"Perdana Menteri turut menegaskan, KPDN perlu lebih tegas dalam memastikan peniaga mematuhi harga maksimum yang ditetapkan kerajaan termasuk bagi barangan di bawah Skim Harga Maksimum Musim Perayaan yang akan diumumkan kelak," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, Perdana Menteri memberi teguran kepada semua pihak dan menegaskan bahawa tindakan atau pertuturan yang menyentuh isu 3R (raja, kaum dan agama) hanya akan menggugat keharmonian negara dan tidak seharusnya berulang.

"Sehubungan itu, beliau mengingatkan semua pihak agar mengelakkan polemik 3R dalam sebarang bentuk kenyataan atau tindakan serta mengutamakan sikap hormat-menghormati," katanya.



PENIAGA di bazar Ramadan diingatkan tidak menaikkan harga sesuka hati demi kebaikan semua pihak. – GAMBAR HIASAN



ANWAR ketika menjawab soalan semasa sesi jawab lisan di Dewan Rakyat, Kuala Lumpur semalam. – JABATAN PENERANGAN

Kosmo 5/3

Pengeluaran KWSP perlu berhemah – PM

- **PM menyatakan KWSP secara prinsipnya simpanan hari tua**
- **Pengecualian diberi dalam kes-kes kritikal**

Oleh NURUL IZZATI ZAINI

KUALA LUMPUR – Kelonggaran berlebihan dalam pengeluaran caruman Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) akan menghukum pencarum apabila mereka bersara.

Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim berkata, kerajaan tidak akan membuka ruang secara luas bagi pencarum mengeluarkan simpanan masing-masing.

Beliau yang juga Menteri Kewangan berkata, kerajaan perlu melakukan keseimbangan antara menyelesaikan masalah mendasak dengan kadar segera atau

menghukum para pencarum ketika bersara.

"Prinsip yang saya pegang dari awal dulu ketika berpuluh tahun jadi Menteri Kewangan, tidak ada kelonggaran berlebihan kerana prinsip KWSP adalah simpanan untuk hari tua.

"Adakala beberapa kecualian diberikan yang mana banyak kes rayuan diberi pertimbangan khas misal kata dalam keadaan keuzuran dan sebagainya.

"Tapi membuka ruang yang terlalu luas, kita akan menghukum mereka beransur tua dan bersara," katanya pada sesi Pertanyaan Perdana Menteri di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Nurul Amin Hamid (**PN-Padang Terap**) mengenai pertimbangan bagi pencarum KWSP yang berhenti atau dihentikan kerja mengeluarkan caruman secara bersasar.

Dalam pada itu, Anwar berkata, kadar caruman KWSP sebanyak dua peratus kepada pekerja asing adalah paling minimum

ditetapkan kerajaan agar tidak membebaskan majikan.

Katanya, KWSP bersama Kementerian Kewangan telah mengadakan sesi libat urus dengan semua syarikat besar dan perusahaan mikro, kecil, dan sederhana bagi membincangkan perkara itu.

Anwar berkata, pelaksanaan caruman buat pekerja asing itu juga berikutan kerajaan terikat dengan piawaian antarabangsa iaitu di bawah protokol Artikel 68, Konvensyen 102, Pertubuhan Buruh Antarabangsa (ILO).

"Sebab itu kita lihat, hampir 70 negara menggunakan kaedah caruman walaupun kebanyakan negara meletakkan caruman lebih tinggi. Jadi kita gunakan yang paling minimum iaitu dua peratus kerana kita anggap ia tidak akan membebaskan," katanya.

Katanya, tetapan caruman buat pekerja asing ini juga memberi peluang kepada kerajaan untuk secara keseluruhannya mendaftar jumlah pekerja asing di negara ini.

322 individu ditahan SPRM dalam 2 bulan

Kuala Lumpur: Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) menahan seramai 322 individu dalam tempoh dua bulan, tahun ini.

Ketua Pesuruhjayanya Tan Sri Azam Baki berkata, sepanjang Januari hingga Februari lalu, sebanyak 238 kertas siasatan berkaitan isu rasuah dan penyalahgunaan kuasa dibuka.

"Tangkapan pada Januari ialah seramai 177 orang manakala bulan lalu ialah 145 orang.

"Kertas siasatan yang dibuka pada Januari sejumlah 138 fail dan baki selebihnya adalah pada bulan lalu," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut, Azam menjelaskan seramai 199 individu yang ditahan terbabit sudah dituduh di mahkamah.

"Pada Januari seramai 60 individu dan Februari 39 orang," katanya.

Tahun ini, SPRM melakukan beberapa operasi besar antaranya Op Sky membabitkan sebuah syarikat perunding kewangan yang bersengkongkol dengan pegawai bank bagi memperdaya ribuan penjawat awam.

Dalam Op Airway pula, SPRM membekukan 12 akaun dan beberapa aset susulan penahanan enam pegawai kastam dan la-



HM
5/3

Kertas siasatan yang dibuka pada Januari adalah sejumlah 138 fail dan baki selebihnya adalah pada bulan lalu"

Azam

pan orang awam termasuk enam pengarah syarikat itu dengan sindiket penyeludupan dan mengelak cukai membabitkan rokok elektronik.

Terbaharu, SPRM menahan empat individu termasuk dua bekas pegawai kanan kepada bekas Perdana Menteri, Datuk Ismail Sabri Yaakob dan menemui RM170 juta wang tunai pelbagai negara serta jongkong emas bernilai RM7 juta dalam tiga buah peti besi di sebuah *safehouse*.

Kuala Lumpur: Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) tidak mengawal selia caj fasiliti yang dikenakan di kemudahan penjagaan kesihatan swasta.

Menterinya Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, pihaknya hanya mengawal selia caj profesional mencakupi hal perundingan dan prosedur menerusi Akta Kemudahan dan Perkhidmatan Jagaan Kesihatan Swasta 1998 (Akta 586).

"KKM telah menguatkuasakan Akta 586 dan Peraturanannya sejak 1 Mei 2006 yang turut mengawal fi yang dikenakan oleh kemudahan jagaan kesihatan swasta melalui Jadual Fi (Jadual Ketujuh dan Ketiga Belas).

"Jadual Fi ini mengawal selia fi profesional (perundingan dan prosedur) dengan memperuntukkan harga siling atau had maksimum yang boleh dike-

ISU CAJ PEMEGANG INSURANS, BUKAN PEMEGANG INSURANS

HM 5/3

KKM tak kawal selia caj fasiliti kemudahan swasta

nakan oleh pengamal perubatan di hospital atau klinik swasta.

"Kos rawatan di fasiliti kesihatan swasta merangkumi fi profesional pengamal perubatan dan fi fasiliti kesihatan swasta.

"Fi fasiliti yang antara lainnya terdiri daripada caj perkhidmatan kejururawatan, caj peralatan perubatan, caj alat pakai buang (jarum, picagari, kain kasa dan lain-lain) dan caj ujian makmal tidak dikawal selia oleh KKM," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis di laman web Parlimen, kelmarin.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab pertanyaan

nyaan **Yeo Bee Yin (PH-Puchong)** mengenai langkah Kementerian untuk memastikan bayaran dikenakan oleh hospital swasta adalah sama di antara pemegang insurans dan bukan pemegang insurans, termasuk surat jaminan serta *pay and claim* (bayar dan tuntutan).

Pada masa sama, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, pihaknya mengambil beberapa langkah untuk memastikan bayaran dikenakan hospital swasta adalah sama di antara pemegang insurans dan bukan pemegang insurans.

Menurutnya, antaranya memastikan hospital mengadakan prosedur ketidakpuasan



DR Dzulkefly

hati ke atas semua aduan.

"Memastikan hospital swasta serta pengamal perubatan dan perkhidmatan swasta mematuhi fi profesional seperti yang termaktub di dalam Jadual Ketiga Belas.

"Membolehkan pesakit

mendapat maklumat mengenai anggaran caj yang akan dikenakan sebelum rawatan dimulakan melalui kaunseling kewangan oleh hospital swasta," katanya.

Dalam usaha menangani inflasi kos perubatan, Dr Dzulkefly berkata, KKM sedang menjalankan beberapa pendekatan seperti memperluaskan mekanisme pembelian strategik perkhidmatan kesihatan swasta yang berkualiti secara pukal bagi mendapatkan harga berpatutan dengan penawaran jumlah pesakit yang lebih, untuk membolehkan penurunan harga.

Katanya KKM juga menggalakkan ketelusan harga dalam sektor penjagaan kesihatan swasta,

sekali gus membolehkan rakyat membuat perbandingan dan membuat keputusan lebih tepat mengenai perkhidmatan kesihatan diperlukan.

"Memperkenalkan pilihan penjagaan kesihatan premium melalui Rakan KKM yang juga akan berperanan sebagai satu penanda aras kompetitif kepada perkhidmatan kesihatan swasta.

"Memperkenalkan kaedah pembayaran berasaskan kumpulan diagnosis (DRG) untuk mendapatkan penjagaan kesihatan berasaskan nilai. Kementerian pada masa ini sedang membangunkan kerangka dan mekanisme untuk pelaksanaan pembayaran melalui kaedah DRG ini," katanya.

Hanya mengawal selia caj profesional mencakupi hal perundingan dan prosedur

DBKL buat laporan polis pihak manipulasi lesen bazar Ramadan

Terdapat cubaan penjualan tapak dikesan melalui WhatsApp

5/3

Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) sudah membuat laporan polis terhadap pihak dikesan mengambil kesempatan memanipulasikan lesen bazar Ramadan pada tahun ini.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa, berkata kejadian yang berlaku itu agak mengecewakan apabila masih terdapat cubaan penjualan tapak yang dikesan melalui saluran WhatsApp.

"Saya ada nombor telefon indi-

vidu itu dan tidak teragak-agak mengambil tindakan lebih keras," katanya pada sesi soal jawab di Dewan Negara, semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika menjawab pertanyaan Datuk Dr Mohd Hatta Md Ramli yang ingin tahu bagaimana kementerian memberi jaminan bahawa lesen penaja bazar Ramadan di sekitar Wilayah Persekutuan tidak dimanipulasi pihak tidak bertanggungjawab seperti sebelum ini.

Dr Zaliha berkata, DBKL yang mengambil alih penganjuran sepenuhnya 40 lokasi bazar Ramadan dan dua lokasi bazar Aidilfitri, yakin tidak berlaku manipulasi atau penjualan tapak berikutan pengurusan serta penawaran dilakukan secara terus secara dalam talian kepada pemohon dan peniaga.

"Bagi petak yang masih terdapat kekosongan, permohonan dibuka semula dengan kaedah 'siapa

cepat dia dapat' untuk memberi peluang kepada peniaga mendapatkan petak bazar," katanya.

Dr Zaliha berkata, Perbadanan Putrajaya yang menguruskan empat tapak dan Perbadanan Labuan yang membuka dua lokasi tapak bazar Ramadan turut memberi jaminan tiada lesen penaja kepada peniaga yang akan dimanipulasi, malah penguatkuasaan oleh pegawai perbadanan dilaksanakan secara berkala sepanjang Ramadan tahun ini.

Sewa tapak dikurangkan

Menjawab soalan tambahan Mohd Hatta mengenai perkembangan setakat dua hari pelaksanaan bazar Ramadan berikutan sewa tapak dikurangkan kepada RM500, Dr Zaliha berkata, terdapat peniaga memaklumkan hasil perniagaan hari pertama mampu memulangkan modal dikeluarkan mereka.

"Walaupun kita masih dengar

aduan dan komen di media sosial mengatakan harga (jualan) masih sama dengan tahun sebelum ini, tetapi sepatutnya harga sewaan rendah ini dapat mengurangkan fenomena Ali Baba dan ia juga membolehkan peniaga menjual pada harga kompetitif, namun faktor lain seperti kos bahan mentah serta margin keuntungan

"Saya ada nombor telefon individu itu dan tidak teragak-agak untuk mengambil tindakan lebih keras"

Dr Zaliha Mustafa,
Menteri di Jabatan
Perdana Menteri
(Wilayah
Persekutuan)



masih jadi penentu utama harga jualan," katanya.

Menjawab soalan tambahan Manolan Mohamad sama ada bazar Ramadan mempunyai potensi produk pelancongan sempena Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026 dan bagaimana kerajaan memastikan ia tetap menawarkan juadah dan kuih tradisional, Dr Zaliha berpandangan ia boleh dianjurkan dengan konsep tertentu bagi menarik pelancong domestik dan antarabangsa.

"Mungkin tahun hadapan kita boleh mengadakan konsep menjual makanan tradisi dengan pakaian tradisi dan sebagainya yang kita boleh fikirkan sebagai tarikan pelancong pada masa depan.

"Kita tambah baik bazar Ramadan dengan ada pintu gerbang dan khemah serta pakaian peniaga seragam yang kita beri apron dan topi sama, malah kita lihat keadaan bersih juga boleh jadi tarikan pelancong," katanya.

Pengeluaran simpanan KWSP

Kelonggaran beri kesan negatif kepada pencarum

Ruang terlalu luas pengeluaran akan menghukum pencarum pada hari tua, bersara

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Kuala Lumpur: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengingatkan jika ada ruang terlalu luas diberikan untuk pengeluaran caruman Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP), kemudahan itu akan menghukum pencarum ketika mereka tua dan bersara.

Perdana menteri berkata, kerajaan tidak akan memberi kelonggaran secara berlebihan kepada pencarum KWSP untuk mengeluarkan simpanan masing-masing secara bersasar.

Beliau berkata, keadaan itu bertentangan dengan tujuan caruman KWSP untuk pekerja menjalani persaraan.

Kerajaan juga katanya, perlu mewujudkan keseimbangan di antara menyelesaikan masalah mendesak segera dengan simpanan kewangan bagi pekerja se-

lepas mereka bersara.

"Banyak kes rayuan khusus diberikan pertimbangan khas, terutama dalam keadaan keuzuran dan sebagainya.

"Namun, membuka ruang terlalu luas, bermakna kita akan menghukum mereka apabila beransur tua dan bersara," katanya pada sesi Pertanyaan Perdana Menteri di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan tambahan Nurul Amin Hamid (PN-Padang Terap) mengenai pertimbangan bagi pencarum KWSP yang berhenti atau dihentikan kerja, mengeluarkan caruman secara bersasar.

Memperinci perkara itu, Perdana Menteri berkata, KWSP menjelaskan majoriti pencarum, terutama dalam kalangan masyarakat Melayu memiliki simpanan sangat kecil.

Galak simpanan patuh syariah
Sementara itu Anwar berkata, kerajaan tidak bercadang mewajibkan semua pencarum beragama Islam memindahkan caruman KWSP kepada simpanan patuh syariah.

Perdana Menteri berkata, kerajaan sebaliknya akan menggalakkan semua pencarum beragama Islam untuk berbuat demikian memandangkan kadar dividen dinikmati kedua-dua jenis



Kelonggaran melampau tidak akan diberikan bagi menjamin hari persaraan pencarum kelak.

(Foto hiasan)

simpanan menunjukkan prestasi baik.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin) mengenai dasar mewajibkan pencarum beragama Islam mengalihkan caruman kepada simpanan syariah.

Mengenai caruman KWSP mandatori ke atas buruh asing Anwar berkata, langkah itu bertujuan mempertahankan hak rakyat tempatan untuk mengisi peluang pekerjaan di negara ini.

Beliau berkata, ketetapan itu

antara lain bertujuan mengurangkan kebergantungan ke atas buruh asing, selain menjadi instrumen menggalakkan golongan itu pulang ke negara asal sejurus tamat tempoh dibenarkan.

Katanya, buruh asing akan dikenakan syarat menyatakan rekod untuk meninggalkan Malaysia, jika mahu mengeluarkan caruman KWSP masing-masing.

Beliau berkata demikian menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin).

KWSP tidak boleh dikeluarkan sewenang-wenangnya - PM

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KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menegaskan, kerajaan tidak bercadang untuk memberi kelonggaran pengeluaran Akaun 1 Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) oleh pencarum.

Perdana Menteri menjelaskan, sekiranya kelonggaran itu diberi, ia berisiko menjejaskan simpanan pencarum sendiri apabila mereka bersara kelak.

Jelasnya, prinsip KWSP adalah sebagai simpanan untuk hari tua dan tidak seharusnya mempunyai kelonggaran berlebihan.

"Malah, kebimbangan turut timbul kerana majoriti pencarum Melayu mempunyai simpanan yang kecil dalam KWSP.

"Jika ruang pengeluaran dibuka terlalu luas, kita sebenarnya menghukum mereka di hari tua," katanya di Dewan Rakyat di sini semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan Nurul Amin Hamid (PN-Padang Terap) mengenai kemungkinan kerajaan mempertimbangkan pengeluaran bersasar KWSP bagi pencarum yang kehilangan pekerjaan.

Oleh itu katanya, kerajaan perlu menyeimbangkan antara menyelesaikan masalah

mendesak pencarum ketika ini atau membiarkan mereka berdepan kesulitan kewangan selepas bersara.

Menurut Anwar, KWSP sebelum ini pernah memberikan pengecualian dan kelonggaran dalam kes rayuan tertentu, khususnya bagi golongan yang benar-benar memerlukan.

"Jika ada kes spesifik seperti keuzuran, KWSP boleh mempertimbangkan permohonan pengeluaran walaupun tidak mengikut peraturan dan kaedah semasa," tambahnya.

Sementara itu, Perdana Menteri berkata, kerajaan tidak bercadang untuk mewajibkan

pencarum beragama Islam menyertai simpanan syariah KWSP, sebaliknya menggalakkan penyertaan secara sukarela.

"Tiada dasar yang mewajibkan umat Islam mencarum dalam simpanan syariah. Namun, dengan rekod dividen simpanan syariah yang baik, kita berharap lebih ramai akan memilihnya.

"Umat Islam juga perlu diberikan penjelasan mengenai instrumen kewangan patuh syariah yang diperkenalkan dalam sektor perbankan dan kewangan," katanya menjawab soalan tambahan Datuk Mohd. Isam Mohd. Isa (BN-Tampin).



ANWAR Ibrahim ketika sesi soal jawab lisan pada Mesyuarat Pertama Penggal Keempat Parlimen ke-15 di Dewan Rakyat, semalam. - JABATAN PENERANGAN

Seiring kestabilan ekonomi dan inflasi terkawal

OPR dijangka kekal 3.0 peratus

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PETALING JAYA: Kadar Dasar Semalam (OPR) dijangka kekal pada kadar semasa iaitu 3.0 peratus oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) pada mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Dasar Monetari (MPC) Khamis ini.

Ini seiring kestabilan ekonomi negara dengan pertumbuhan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) benar 2024 pada 5.1 peratus serta tekanan inflasi yang terkawal 1.8 peratus dalam tempoh sama.

Pensyarah Kanan, Fakulti Ekonomi dan Pengurusan Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof. Madya Dr. Norlin Khalid berkata, kestabilan ringgit dan keseimbangan dalam dasar fiskal dan monetari turut menjadi pertimbangan utama.

"Berdasarkan anggaran dalaman, saya menjangka OPR akan kekal pada 3.0 peratus, selaras dengan pendekatan dasar monetari semasa yang cenderung bersifat neutral."

"Tiada tekanan ketara yang memerlukan kenaikan kadar faedah buat masa ini, memandangkan inflasi masih berada dalam julat yang boleh dikawal dan pertumbuhan ekonomi tidak menunjukkan

Berdasarkan anggaran dalaman, saya menjangka OPR akan kekal pada 3.0 peratus, selaras dengan pendekatan dasar monetari semasa yang cenderung bersifat neutral."

NORLIN KHALID

keperluan mendesak untuk sebarang pelanggaran dasar.

"Ia berbeza dengan keputusan Bank of Thailand baru-baru ini yang telah menurunkan kadar faedah sebanyak 25 mata asas," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Jelasnya, sekiranya OPR dikekalkan, faktor utamanya adalah kestabilan makroekonomi semasa, termasuk inflasi yang terkawal serta kestabilan ringgit yang disokong oleh aliran modal yang lebih seimbang.

"BNM juga perlu memastikan bahawa kos pembiayaan tidak



KALI terakhir OPR berubah adalah apabila dinaikkan daripada 2.75 peratus kepada 3.0 peratus pada Mei 2023.

terlalu tinggi sehingga menjejaskan perbelanjaan isi rumah dan pelaburan sektor swasta.

"Sebaliknya, jika OPR dinaikkan, ia mungkin berpunca daripada tekanan inflasi yang lebih tinggi daripada jangkaan, terutama akibat faktor luaran seperti ketidaktentuan harga minyak global atau penyusutan nilai ringgit yang berterusan."

"Selain itu, langkah ini juga

boleh diambil sekiranya BNM ingin memperkukuh daya tarikan ringgit dalam pasaran kewangan antarabangsa bagi mengelakkan aliran keluar modal," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Penganalisis Ekonomi UniKL Business School, Prof. Madya Dr. Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid turut berpendapat sama bahawa OPR akan kekal pada 3.0 peratus di-

sebabkan keadaan ekonomi domestik baik dan terkawal.

"Kadar inflasi juga terkawal pada 1.7 peratus pada Disember lalu dan dijangka kekal sehingga pertengahan tahun apabila pelaksanaan subsidi bersasar RON95 oleh kerajaan."

"Ia dijangka mengimbangkan keperluan eksport negara yang dijangka pada awal tahun 2025, iaitu sehinggalah perdagangan dunia berjaya mengubah suai perubahan besar yang dilakukan oleh dasar-dasar baharu Amerika Syarikat (AS)."

"Kesimpulannya, ekonomi domestik berada dalam keadaan stabil untuk menjadi teras kepada pertumbuhan KDNK negara untuk 2025," katanya.

Bagaimanapun, jelasnya, prestasi eksport negara yang dijangka terganggu oleh pelbagai perubahan polisi AS selepas Donald Trump mengambil alih menjadi presiden menjadi satu kekusaran.

"Sekiranya ekonomi dunia perlahan pada pertengahan tahun ini dan berlaku peningkatan kadar inflasi dunia serta Malaysia disebabkan oleh faktor-faktor geopolitik yang memberikan kesan besar kepada ekonomi negara, maka BNM terpaksa menilai semula dasar monetari negara pada masa itu," katanya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
05 MAR 2025
Tarikh:

PM: NO UNCONTROLLED EPF WITHDRAWALS

The majority of members have minimal savings, Anwar tells House

AMALIA AZMI
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ALLOWING Employees Provident Fund contributors to make uncontrolled withdrawals will leave them financially vulnerable in their retirement.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the government would not allow excessive flexibility for EPF withdrawals, as the fund's main purpose was to secure retirement savings.

Speaking during the Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, he said the majority of members, particularly from the Malay community, had minimal savings.

"If we open up (uncontrolled) withdrawals, it will create serious problems when they retire."

Anwar was replying to a supplementary question from Nurul Amin Hamid (PN-Padang Terap) on whether the government would allow targeted withdrawals for EPF contributors who had stopped working or had lost their jobs.

He said the government must seek a balance between addressing pressing issues and ensuring people were not penniless during retirement.

"If Padang Terap has any specific cases to highlight, EPF can consider them, as they have done for (other) urgent situations."

Anwar said the government had no plans to make it compulsory for Muslim EPF contributors to opt for the syariah savings scheme.

However, he said Muslims were encouraged to do so, following the recent announcement of a 6.3 per cent dividend for both conventional and syariah savings.

Anwar said the differences between the two schemes should be explained to Muslims.

"In my view, the impact of this (equal dividends for conventional and syariah schemes) is significant, as it will encourage Muslims to switch to the syariah



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim says there are no plans to make it compulsory for Muslim EPF contributors to opt for the syariah savings scheme. BERNAMA PIC

scheme. That is why we do not intend to make it mandatory.

"However, with continuous encouragement and explanations, we hope to increase participation," he said in reply to Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin).

Anwar said as of December last year, about 63 per cent of EPF's investments, amounting to RM782 billion, were in the domestic market.

He said this was an 11 per cent growth from 2023.

"The strong dividend performance is also a reflection of confidence in investments aligned with the Madani Economy framework."

"We recorded a 5.1 per cent increase in gross domestic product, which is higher than the projection I made here the previous year."

"The Bursa Malaysia index saw a 12.9 per cent increase, which is a significant improvement," he said.

Anwar said the proposed two per cent EPF contribution for foreign workers would not burden employers or shift the fund's primary focus on Malaysian workers' retirement savings.

He said EPF and the Finance Ministry had engaged with major corporations and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to discuss the policy.

"We are also bound by international standards, including Article 68 of Convention 112 of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)."

"Nearly 70 countries implement similar contribution

schemes, with most setting higher contribution rates."

"However, we have opted for a minimum two per cent contribution, as this rate will not burden employers. At the same time, it does not divert EPF's focus from citizens' retirement savings," he said.

This was in reply to Chiew Choon Man (PH-Miri), who asked about EPF contributions for non-citizens, whether the proposal would burden employers and whether it would divert attention from Malaysians.

"The contribution scheme is designed to protect the interests of local workers. In my view, it is unreasonable to continue relying on foreign labour."

"If hiring foreign workers is necessary under the current circumstances, they should be subject to the same methods and systems as local workers, including making EPF contributions, even at a minimum rate."

"Otherwise, there would be no incentive to prioritise hiring local workers, as employers would opt for the easier route of hiring foreign labour," he said.

Anwar said the mandatory contribution would also allow the government to record the total number of foreign workers.

"Secondly, it utilises financial institutions, including the EPF and the banking system (in the process)."

"Thirdly, it ensures that these savings are secure and encourages foreign workers to withdraw them once their service and work permits in Malaysia end," he said.

Air Selangor intensifies efforts to address water scarcity

➤ Ongoing projects expected to increase total supply capacity from 6.03 billion to 8.76 billion litres per day by 2030, says CEO

■ BY QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI
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PETALING JAYA: Air Selangor is intensifying efforts to address public concerns over water scarcity by investing in major infrastructure projects to enhance supply reliability and sustainability.

Its CEO Adam Saffian Ghazali told *theSun* that Air Selangor has implemented various measures to expand water supply capacity while ensuring a reliable and safe water supply for consumers.

He said the total water supply capacity of the ongoing projects is expected to increase from the current 6.035 billion to 8.765 billion litres per day by 2030.

"The Rasau Water Supply Scheme Phase 1, set for completion in 2027, will deliver 700 million litres per day (MLD) of water to 467,000 accounts in Klang and parts of Kuala Langat, with further expansions planned.

"Phase 2, expected in 2028, will add 700 MLD, benefiting consumers in Klang and Petaling. Upon completion, the entire Rasau Water Supply Scheme will have a total capacity of 1,400 MLD."

Adam Saffian said Air Selangor plans to implement Langat 2 Water Supply Scheme Phase 2, managed by Pengurusan Aset Air Berhad, which is set for completion by 2030 with a capacity of 1,130 MLD.

"Meanwhile, the Labohan Dagang Water Supply Scheme Phase 2 is expected to be completed in 2029, with a capacity of 200 MLD.

"As the largest water services provider in Malaysia, it is imperative that we ensure that our infrastructure is at the highest level to ensure the reliability, stability and sustainability of the water supply," he said.

His comments follow *theSun*'s Feb 25 report highlighting concerns that Malaysia's water treatment system may struggle to meet rising demand due to increasing domestic, industrial, and agricultural needs, as well as rapid urbanisation and economic growth.

"We believe continuous investment is key to enhancing infrastructure, including water treatment plants and distribution networks, while integrating advanced technologies to ensure clean and safe treated water for all.

"Our total water reserve margin has increased to 18.60% in 2024, up from 15.34% in



Adam Saffian said Air Selangor is dedicated to improving water distribution efficiency and cutting non-revenue water losses through strategic initiatives. — AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THE SUN

2023, as a result of close monitoring of dams and water treatment plants (WTP), as well as the progressive completion of Langat 2 WTP," said Adam Saffian.

He added that Air Selangor is set to roll out its Water Conservation Roadmap (2025-2030) to promote efficient water use, aligning with the Energy Transition and Water Transformation Ministry's goal of reducing per capita water consumption to 160 litres per day by 2030.

"We are committed to strengthening the water supply system through long-term initiatives, including portable WTP and water reclamation efforts that will enhance distribution efficiency and act as backups during maintenance or emergencies."

Adam Saffian said Air Selangor is dedicated to improving water distribution efficiency and cutting non-revenue water (NRW) losses through strategic initiatives. As of 2024, NRW has been reduced to 27%, saving 298.36 million litres of water daily.

"By 2030, the goal is to lower NRW to 25% through performance-based contracts (PBC), which will allow collaboration with contractors to enhance efficiency and share savings without requiring high upfront investments."

Adam Saffian said to address infrastructure challenges while managing financial and environmental concerns, Air Selangor is doubling efforts to replace 5,000km of ageing pipes by 2040, accelerating NRW reduction through PBC, and setting up new district metering zones to regulate water pressure and minimise leaks.

"Advanced technologies such as pressure transient monitoring, leak detection loggers, and an intelligent command centre for real-time data integration will also be implemented to enhance water management efficiency."

Adam Saffian said Air Selangor has introduced various initiatives to promote water conservation, including the Water Handbook to educate Malaysians on sustainable water use, installed water-efficient taps in mosques to reduce wastage, and raise awareness in public spaces. To engage younger audiences, it has partnered with *BoBoiBoy* animated series to encourage water-saving habits among children.

Consumers can report pipe leaks, bursts, meter leaks, and illegal tapping to help curb NRW through the "Report Leaks" feature in the Air Selangor app.

Early EPF withdrawals may jeopardise retired life: PM

► 'Principle for decades was to prevent contributors from accessing savings meant for old age'

KUALA LUMPUR: Allowing contributors to make excessive withdrawals from their EPF savings before the maturity date is akin to "punishing" them when they retire, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

He said for decades, including during his previous tenure as finance minister, the principle upheld was to prevent excessive withdrawals as EPF savings are intended for retirement.

"EPF has made it clear that the majority of contributors, especially Malays, have very small savings. So, opening up this (early

withdrawal) option will cause problems when they retire," he said in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

"Yes, sometimes, certain exceptions and relaxations are granted, and special consideration is given in some cases, particularly for those facing hardship or suffering from illness. But the government needs to strike a balance between addressing urgent, immediate needs and a situation where people are left in hardship when they have no other means of support."

He was replying to Nurul Amin Hamid

(PN-Padang Terap), who wished to know whether the government wants to consider special EPF withdrawals for contributors in need, such as those who have lost their jobs.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said he believes the EPF could give due consideration to urgent cases even if it does not follow existing EPF regulations.

To a question from Chiew Choon Man (PH-Miri) on EPF contribution for non-citizens, which is seen as burdening employers and diverting the EPF's attention from focusing specifically on Malaysians' retirement savings, Anwar said the move would not reduce the fund's attention to locals.

He said the government had, in fact, introduced various initiatives, such as voluntary contributions for self-employed individuals in 2024, with 1.2 million members already making voluntary contributions.

"We also have i-Saraan and i-Suri schemes to support the informal sector, especially housewives. The government incentives for these schemes have reached RM4.16 million."

Anwar said the minimum contribution of 2% imposed on non-citizen workers is deemed not burdensome.

"We are also bound by international standards - Article 68 of Convention 102 of the International Labour Organisation. That is why we see almost 70 countries using the contribution method, although most countries set higher contributions."

Anwar said the government does not intend to make it mandatory for Muslim contributors to the EPF to contribute to syariah savings automatically.

He added that the government, however, highly encourages them to do so through a series of incentives and explanations regarding syariah financial instruments, which are expected to increase the number of Muslim contributors in these types of savings, Bernama reported.

He expressed hope that the EPF's higher dividend rate of 6.3% for both conventional and syariah savings for 2024 would encourage Muslims to switch to the latter.

"There is no policy to make it mandatory, but we do encourage it," he said in reply to Datuk Mohd Isam Mohd Isa (BN-Tampin).



KEEPING TABS ... Transport Minister Anthony Loke during a working visit to the Gombak Integrated Terminal in Kuala Lumpur yesterday to inspect its operational readiness. — ADIB RAWI YAHYA/THESUN

Selangor Sultan receives RM13.2m business *zakat*

4/3/25

SHAH ALAM: The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah received business *zakat* amounting to over RM13.2 million from six state-owned companies in Selangor yesterday.

The six companies are Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor Berhad (RM3.4 million), Kumpulan Worldwide Holdings Berhad (RM2.9 million), Selangor State Development Corporation (PKNS) (RM2.6 million), Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (RM1.9 million), Permodalan Negeri Selangor Berhad (RM1.2 million) and Central Spectrum (M) Sdn Bhd (RM1.03 million).

Sultan Sharafuddin accepted the *zakat* when attending a breaking of fast event at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque on Monday.

He also accepted a *waqf* donation worth RM401,986.55 from the Shah Alam City Council and Tabung Infaq Jariah Umat Islam Selangor.

The Sultan also presented Raya donations to 434 recipients consisting of the poor, *asnaf* and converts, with each recipient receiving RM500.

— Bernama

THE SUN
08 MAR 2025

Tarikh:

Govt gets stay order for RM1.7b pension payment ٩٩

KUALA LUMPUR: The High Court yesterday allowed the government's application to stay payments of pension arrears to 531,976 pensioners amounting to RM1.7 billion, pending the disposal of its appeal at the Court of Appeal.

The arrears are based on the pensioners' final salary according to a 2016 Public Services Department (PSD) circular.

Judge Datuk Amarjeet Singh decided, after hearing submissions by Senior Federal Counsel Ahmad Hanir Hambaly @ Arwi, representing the government and the Public Service director-general, and lawyer Datuk Dr Abd Shukor Ahmad, representing retired civil servant Aminah Ahmad.

"After considering the affidavits and submissions from both parties, I find that there are special circumstances to allow the stay. There is no order as to costs," said the judge.

Meanwhile, the court dismissed the respondent's application to stay the High Court decision.

The government had filed the stay application against a High Court decision which allowed Aminah's judicial review and

ordered the PSD and the government to pay the pension arrears within three months, starting Jan 16.

Ahmad Hanir, in his submission, said the payment of the pension arrears, starting January 2022, estimated at RM1.7 billion, is to be disbursed to 531,976 pensioners.

He said recalculations are necessary to align the pensions accordingly.

"It is undeniable that the 531,976 pensioners reside in various locations in Malaysia and abroad. If the respondent succeeds in the appeal at the Court of Appeal, there is a risk that the respondent will not get the additional pension payment," he said and requested the application for a stay of the High Court order dated Jan 16 be allowed.

Abd Shukor, who objected to the stay application, said the payment of pension arrears is a legal obligation and not a waste of time, cost or manpower.

"The prospect of success in the appeal is still speculative and cannot be used as a reason to withhold the payment of the pension arrears because any administrative burden lies entirely with the respondent and

should not be used to prejudice the rights of the applicant (Aminah) and other pensioners."

Aminah, who retired from the Foreign Ministry, had filed a judicial review application on Jan 12, 2023, in her capacity and on behalf of 56 retired members of the public service.

Aminah applied for a *mandamus* order to compel the respondent to expedite the pension adjustment to the rightful amount as outlined in sections 3 and 6 of the Pension Adjustment Act 1980 (PAA 1980) before the amendments in sections 3 and 7 of the Pension Adjustment (Amendment) Act 2013 (PAA 2013).

She had also sought an order for the respondents to pay the pension arrears within 14 days, in addition to a declaratory order stating that the failure to pay violates the Federal Constitution.

Under the old scheme, retirees' pensions are revised based on the prevailing salary of incumbent civil servants in that grade. However, the 2013 amendment was introduced based on a flat rate of 2% annual increment. — Bernama