MBSJ
GEMILANG BERSAMA

PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 5 OGOS 2024 (ISNIN)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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2.	THE STAR	DBKL	• THANK YOU FOR BEING CONSIDERATE • JINJANG PARK NEEDS URGENT REPAIRS
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Tunda kenderaan berat ganggu trafik

SHAH ALAM - Majlis Bandaraya Diraja Klang (MBDK) menunda kenderaan berat yang diparkir di kawasan tumpuan awam dan kawasan perumahan, kata pengarah komunikasi korporatnya.

Norfiza Mahfiz menjelaskan penguatkuasaan tersebut giat dijalankan pada bulan ini berikutan MBDK menerima banyak aduan daripada penduduk.

"Tindakan ini untuk mendidik pengguna lalu lintas terutama pengusaha atau pemilik kenderaan berat agar lebih berdisiplin mematuhi undang-undang," katanya dalam kenyataan baru-baru ini.

Beliau juga menjelaskan kewujudan Pelabuhan Utara, Pelabuhan Selatan dan Pelabuhan Barat antara faktor penyumbang kemasukan kenderaan berat yang banyak pada setiap hari.

Sebarang maklumat atau pertanyaan hubungi talian 1-800-88-23826 atau pejabat Jabatan Penguatkuasa MBDK 03-3374 8845.

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Selenggara 940 pokok berisiko

SEPANG - Majlis Perbandaran Sepang (MPSepang) giat menjalankan kerja memotong dan memangkas 940 pokok yang dikenal pasti berisiko meliputi tiga zon kawasan seliaannya sejak Februari.

Yang Dipertuanya Dato' Abd Hamid Hussain memaklumkan tiga zon berkenaan adalah Cyberjaya babitkan 390 pokok, Puchong (448) dan Sepang Putra (102).

"Setakat ini, sekitar 40 peratus daripadanya selesai dan dijangka siap sepenuhnya menjelang Disember. Kerja pemangkasan ini melibatkan pokok berusia lebih 20 tahun dan berisiko.

"Kos pelaksanaan agak tinggi iaitu bagi kerja menebang dianggar bernilai RM8,000 hingga RM10,000 sebatang manakala memangkas pula RM3,000 hingga RM5,000," katanya pada 26 Julai.

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Temui peniaga medan selera terbakar

SHAH ALAM - Penyelaras Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Hulu Kelang meninjau Medan Selera AU5 Lembah Keramat, Gombak yang terbakar pada 27 Julai selain menyantuni peniaga terjejas.

Bersimpati terhadap mangsa, Juwairiya Zulkifli berkata beliau akan menyusuli rapat insiden yang memusnahkan 12 lot gerai itu bagi membantu peniaga berkenaan.

"Saya telah memaklumkan kepada Dato' Menteri Besar (Dato' Seri Amirudin Shari) selaku ahli parlimen kawasan dan Yang Dipertua Majlis Perbandaran Ampang Jaya (MPAJ) Dr Ani Ahmad.

"MPAJ akan mengenal pasti lokasi tapak niaga sementara untuk mereka di samping tidak mengenakan sewa kepada peniaga dalam tempoh tersebut," katanya di Facebook.

Juwairiya turut meninjau tapak kejadian kebakaran yang dikatakan berpunca akibat kebocoran gas di salah satu lot sehingga memusnahkan 80 peratus premis.

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Selangor antara pengeksport utama

SHAH ALAM - Pulau Pinang, Johor, Selangor, Sarawak dan Kuala Lumpur menyumbang 82.9 peratus nilai eksport negara setakat Jun tahun ini, menurut Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia.

Mencatat nilai dagangan RM237.8 bilion pada Jun, Malaysia mengeksport RM126.0 bilion manakala import RM111.8 bilion, kata Ketua Perangkawan Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin.

Beliau memberitahu Pulau Pinang kekal pengeksport utama iaitu 34.2 peratus, Johor (20.6 peratus), Selangor (17.3 peratus), Sarawak (6.5 peratus) dan Kuala Lumpur (4.2 peratus).

"Prestasi eksport mencatat RM126.0 bilion pada Jun 2024, meningkat RM2.1 bilion atau 1.7 peratus daripada bulan sama tahun sebelumnya," katanya seperti dilapor Bernama pada 26 Julai.

Dr Mohd Uzir menjelaskan peningkatan itu dipengaruhi pertambahan eksport kebanyakan negeri iaitu Pulau Pinang (RM2.0 bilion) diikuti Terengganu (RM1.3 bilion) dan Perak (RM767.0 juta).

Menurut beliau lagi, nilai import pada Jun 2024 meningkat RM16.9 bilion atau 17.8 peratus kepada RM111.8 bilion berbanding bulan sama pada 2023.

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Galak khidmat van transit diteruskan

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan Negeri menggalakkan penyedia van transit atas permintaan (DRT) untuk meneruskan perkhidmatan itu sehingga hujung tahun dengan mengekalkan caj RM2 satu perjalanan.

EXCO Mobiliti Ng Sze Han berkata projek bermula November 2023 yang tamat pada 31 Julai akan diperhalusi dengan kaedah bersesuaian dan berhemah supaya rakyat Selangor terus mendapat manfaat.

"Susulan penamatan projek rintis ini, Kerajaan Negeri menggalakkan penyedia perkhidmatan van DRT meneruskan projek ini dan mengekalkan kadar yang sama iaitu RM2 untuk satu perjalanan di zon sedia ada hingga Disember ini.

"Kerajaan Negeri sedang memperhalusi kaedah yang bersesuaian dan berhemah supaya rakyat Selangor dapat terus menikmati kemudahan perkhidmatan van DRT ini," katanya menerusi kenyataan.

Sze Han menjelaskan pelaksanaan projek rintis van DRT sepanjang lapan bulan sejak 22 November tahun lalu menerima maklum balas positif selain turut mendapat permintaan agar diteruskan.

"Kerajaan Negeri menerima permohonan untuk memperluaskan perkhidmatan van DRT ini supaya dapat membantu agenda pemerkasaan pengangkutam awam di Selangor.

"Jawatankuasa Tetap Mobiliti Selangor akan melaksana kajian terperinci terhadap dapatan projek rintis sebelum membentangkan laporan tersebut dan mencadangkan pelaksanaan penuh perkhidmatan van DRT di Selangor kepada pihak berkuasa negeri," katanya.

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RM1 juta bantu mangsa bencana

KUALA LANGAT - Yayasan Menteri Besar Selangor (Pemerbadanan) atau MBI menyediakan peruntukan RM1 juta tahun ini khusus untuk membantu mangsa kejadian bencana.

Ketuanya Ahmad Azri Zainal Nor memberitahu sebanyak RM500,000 digunakan setakat Julai termasuk pemberian wang tunai kepada 75 mangsa ribut kencang di Teluk Panglima Garang di sini baru-baru ini.

"Setiap tahun memang kita sediakan sejumlah peruntukan sebagai persediaan sekiranya berlaku bencana. Tak kira apa bentuk bencana sama ada banjir, ribut atau kebakaran.

"Sumbangan tidak hanya tertumpu kepada mangsa sahaja tetapi juga usaha membaik pulih kediaman, masjid, surau atau sekolah yang ditimpa musibah," katanya.

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Tingkat capaian pengangkutan awam

SHAH ALAM - Selangor terus melipat ganda usaha menyokong peralihan penggunaan kenderaan peribadi kepada pengangkutan awam menerusi penambahbaikan sistem dan infrastruktur sedia ada.

EXCO mobiliti berkata inisiatif Mobiliti Selangor yang diperkenal seperti bas Smart Selangor dan van transit atas permintaan (DRT) meningkatkan capaian pengguna kepada pengangkutan awam.

"Laluan pejalan kaki berbumbung menerusi inisiatif itu juga turut menyumbang peningkatan akses penggunaan pengangkutan awam kepada pengguna," kata Ng Sze Han di Facebook pada 30 Julai.

Beliau berkata projek Transit Aliran Ringan 3 (LRT3) yang menghubungkan Bandar Utama, Petaling Jaya hingga Johan Setia, Klang jajaran penting bagi meningkatkan capaian pengguna.

SELANGORKINI ONLINE
TARIKH: 05 OGOS 2024

'Thank you for being considerate'

Disabled community happy with nationwide crackdown on hawkers operating on five-foot way

By BAVANI M
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THE disabled community in Kuala Lumpur are happy with the government's move to intensify crackdowns on traders operating on pedestrian walkways, five-foot ways, and stairways.

They expressed their gratitude to Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming who explained in Parliament last week of the nationwide crackdown by the local authorities to address the issue.

The Malaysian Association for the Blind (MAB) chief executive officer Datuk George Thomas said "I am pleased with Nga's commitment to addressing the obstruction of walkways especially the ones with tactile blocks for the blind.

"We hope DBKL (Kuala Lumpur City Hall) will rigorously enforce regulations against traders who obstruct the pathways of the blind residents, especially in areas like Brickfields."

Selangor Paralympic athlete Hemavati Muniandi, who is a wheelchair user, expressed her gratitude to Nga for listening to the plight of the disabled community.

"As a wheelchair user, I often find it extremely difficult to manoeuvre the wheelchair around the city centre, especially when pedestrian walkways meant for people like me are constantly impeded by traders operating on walkways.

"I am thankful that someone is listening to our issues and is willing to do something about it."

Nga had said in Parliament as of June 30 this year, a total of 879 public complaints had been received and 1,047 enforcement operations had been conducted against traders who unlawfully occupied public walkways, five-foot ways among other public spaces.

These efforts resulted in the nationwide issuance of 1,720 notices and 7,891 compounds, in addition to 339 seizures.

He reiterated that local authorities were stepping up enforcement activities to curb the misuse of public facilities and councils had increased periodic patrols and monitoring.

Nga said local authority by-laws on licensing stipulated that hawkers were not allowed to trade on public walkways without permission.

"Those doing so without permission can be fined up to RM1,000 under Section 46(1)(d) of the Street, Drainage, and Building Act 1974, which empowers the local council to arrest any person without a warrant for placing an obstruction, such as goods or items, in any public place.

"If convicted, the individual can be fined RM500 and up to RM1,000 for repeat offences," he had said when responding to questions on the matter by Senator Isaiah Jacob who represents the interest of the disabled.

The presence of stalls on public walkways impedes persons with disabilities from navigating public spaces safely. — Filepic

In June, *StarMetro* ran a series of articles highlighting Kuala Lumpur residents' demands for a ban on roadside traders operating on pedestrian walkways, especially those with tactile blocks for the visually impaired.

When contacted, Isaiah, however expressed dissatisfaction with the government not addressing the issue of local councils giving traders permission to operate on pedestrian walkways, particularly those with tactile blocks designed to guide the blind.

"By granting licences for these locations, the message is that it's acceptable, which is not the case," Isaiah said, adding that he planned to meet with Nga to find a solution.

Isaiah stressed that hawking on public walkway must not be allowed as councils must prioritise the safety and comfort of pedestrians, the elderly and mothers with strollers and above all, the disabled community.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 05 AUG 2024

Story and photo by
KAVITHA SIVAJI
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Jinjang park needs urgent repairs

RESIDENTS of Taman Jinjang Baru in Kepong want the damage to their local park amenities to be repaired without further delay.

Two months ago, heavy rains caused a tree to fall, prompting Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) to hire a contractor to remove the other trees that were at risk of falling.

However, during the removal, trees fell onto three concrete benches along with a metal exercise bar.

The incident raised concerns among the local community, particularly from local activist, Yee Poh Ping.

Yee is now seeking compensation or replacements from the contractor.

"These amenities are essential for the community, especially for the elderly who rely on them for their morning and evening exercises," he said.

Residents who witnessed the incident informed Yee that they were unhappy because no action had been taken to rectify the situation even after two months since it happened.

Yee is also advocating for the removal of tree roots that are a hazard to park visitors.

There are five trees with roots protruding above the ground.

"It is particularly dangerous for the elderly," Yee said, urging for a comprehensive cleanup to ensure public safety.

Resident Tan Fai Chao, 70, said it was too dangerous for him and other residents to walk and exercise there.

"We hope DBKL will remove all the trees with exposed roots and flatten the ground," he said.

Yee also hoped DBKL would upgrade the park's equipment and beautify the entire area.

Damaged concrete benches in the Taman Baru Jinjang park.

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YOUR RIGHT to know

Smarter ways of tackling gridlocks

StarMetro speak with experts on solutions to ease Klang Valley's traffic and transport woes

By SHEILA SRI PRIYA
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Experts say highways are not long-term, sustainable solutions despite being critical for economic development and connectivity.

DESPITE having 23 toll highways snaking across Klang Valley, traffic snarls continue to be the bane for those living and working here.

Selangor alone has 19 such highways, and more are in the pipeline.

On July 4, Selangor infrastructure and agriculture committee chairman Izham Hashim told the State Assembly that seven more highway projects were being considered in the state.

Traffic consultant Dr Rosli Azad Khan said while highways served as critical infrastructure for economic development and connectivity, they were not a long-term sustainable solution.

He added that highways did facilitate regional development, making remote areas accessible and promoting tourism.

On the flip side, he said, their impact included accidents due to speeding, which was very costly and overlooked by policymakers.

"Tolled highways often provide poor connectivity between places, as they are designed to capture traffic for toll collection as a matter of priority, before traffic is allowed to exit at designated interchanges.

"In Selangor, there are few places we can travel to without having to use highways and pay tolls for our daily journeys," he said.

Rosli added that highways came with social and environmental costs.

Land is lost and carbon emission increases. As for the social impact, communities get displaced when land is acquired for highways.

"During the construction period, the area can be prone to accidents.

"When a highway divides a neighbourhood, it results in poorer access, reduces the quality of life for those living there and they suffers from noise, traffic and pollution."

Rosli added that many countries, including Malaysia, relied on highways instead of rail for freight transportation, which increased logistics costs especially on tolled highways, serious environmental degradation and other cost implications such as higher operational costs and maintenance.

Rosli said having additional seven highways in Selangor could lead to loss of valuable lands to highway alignment, road interchanges and road reserves.

These lands could instead be used for economic purposes such as employee housing for industries and factories, or

Traffic snarls continue to be the bane for those living and working in the Klang Valley. — Photos: AZMAN GHANI/The Star

Lee says traffic can be control with digital technology and enhancing the capacity of existing roads.

Rosli: Tolled highways provide poor connectivity as they are designed to capture traffic for toll collection as a matter of priority.

Focus should be on improving rail transport instead of highways, an expert says.

Upgrade rail system to address congestion

TRAFFIC congestion in Klang Valley is similar to Vienna, Austria, some 40 years ago.

Its traffic problem was solved with the addition of buses and active transportation, namely walking and cycling, says Universiti Malaya Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering senior lecturer Dr Suhana Koting.

Every city and country had its own characteristics and suitable solutions must be found for local needs, wants and affordability, she said.

"Malaysians will walk a maximum distance of 500m taking into account weather conditions.

"We have to understand why the newer MRT lines have not achieved the targeted ridership.

"We have to look into factors such as first and last mile for the public transport user.

"Is the park and ride expensive? What are the other factors?"

Suhana also said instead of building more highways, the authorities must look into ways to have more efficient public transport.

"We have double decker buses that are sharing the same road as private vehicles," she said, adding that there should be more dedicated bus lanes to enable buses to move faster.

Suhana also called for a

THE STAR
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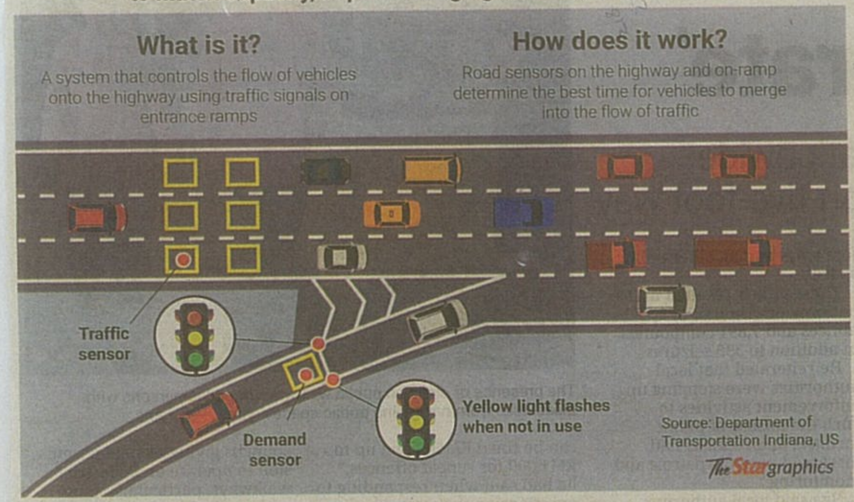
Ramp metering: How it works

Controls the frequency of vehicles entering the highway to match capacity, improve merging and reduce crashes



Source: Department of Transportation Indiana, US

The Star graphics

Existing highways in Selangor

1) North-South (PLUS)
2) Kuala Lumpur-West Traffic Dispersal (SPRINT)
3) Ampang-Kuala Lumpur Elevated Highway (AKLEH)
4) Grand Sepadu
5) New Pantai (NPE)
6) Kajang Dispersal Link (SILK)
7) Shah Alam (KESAS)
8) Guthrie Corridor (GUTHRIE)
9) SMART
10) Kuala Lumpur-Putrajaya (MEX)
11) Kajang-Seremban (LEKAS)
12) Duta-Ulu Kelang (DUKE)
13) Kemuning-Shah Alam (LKSA)
14) Klang Valley South (SKVE)
15) Kuala-Lumpur-Kuala Selangor (LATAR)
16) West Coast (WCE)
17) Sungai Besi-Ulu Kelang (SUKE)
18) Damansara-Shah Alam (DASH)
19) Setiawang-Pantai (SPE)
20) Damansara-Puchong (LDP)
21) Kuala Lumpur-Karak (KLK)
22) Cheras-Kajang (GRAND SAGA)
23) Sungai Besi (BESRAYA)

Source: Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) website

Proposed highways

1) Putrajaya-Bangi (PBE)
2) Kuala Lumpur Northern Dispersal (KL NODE)
3) Senawang-KLIA-Salak Tinggi (SKLIA)
4) Federal Bypass (PINTAR)
5) Kuala Lumpur-Shah Alam (SKYWAY)
6) Klang River Elevated Link (SKL)
7) Petaling Jaya Damansara Dispersal Link (PJDLink)

Source: Selangor government

The Star graphics

commercial and agricultural purposes.

Rosli said the focus should be on improving rail transportation.

"Invest in new, efficient and extensive rail transportation to replace highways.

"Connectivity and network of public transport centred on a central rail station provide much better access and increase mobility for a much larger population and is suitable for large urban areas."

He said there must be mixed development to cater for both low- to medium-cost housing to reduce the need for long commutes and promote sustainable urban growth using public transport.

"Don't focus on upmarket housing for land development along rail corridors.

"Those living in upmarket condominiums and bungalows prefer to commute in their personal vehicles," he said.

Rosli said this contradictory approach in urban planning had been seen in many places such as Glenmarie and Tropicana (LRT3), Damansara Heights, Taman Tun Dr Ismail, Bandar Utama, Surian Kota Damansara (MRT1) and Kwasa Land Development, Sri Damansara and Desa Park City (MRT2)," he said.

G&P Highways and Transportation Sdn Bhd managing director Lee Choy Hin said motorists in the Klang Valley should not be paying to use highways just to arrive at a bottleneck.

There were even highways that had been upgraded from two lanes to three and the congestion was still there, he said.

Instead, Lee said traffic management had to be looked at holistically.

"What we need is digital infrastructure instead of more highways.

"We need seamless connection of roads to move traffic, not more highways," he said.

Intelligent systems

"Internationally the trend is towards intelligent transport systems.

"Countries such as Taiwan, Japan and parts of Europe have turned to using the latest technology related to traffic management and it is time for Malaysia to do so too.

"We need to control traffic using digital technology and enhance the capacity of existing roads," said Lee, who is part of a group that provides engineering related consultancy in transport planning, traffic studies, urban traffic management, engineering design of highways, interchanges, bridges and railway works.

Lee said roads leading to highways could be incorporated with the Ramp Metering system (*see chart*), which controls the number of vehicles that can enter a highway based on an artificial intelligence (AI) traffic light system with cameras.

The traffic light from a road linking to the highway decides when it should turn green.

"Ramp Metering can help decongest roads and control the number of vehicles on the highway, allowing a seamless flow of traffic," he said.

Lee also suggested more effective use of the existing road integrated transport information system (ITIS).

He said ITIS often displayed less important information instead of providing essential information on alternative traffic routes which motorists could use to avoid getting caught in congestion.

Government's role

Most countries do not profit by providing public transportation systems but governments had a responsibility to non-vehicle users too, said Lee.

He said public transport such as Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) and Light Rail Transit (LRT) must be further promoted.

"We hear some of the stations are not well patronised and it must be addressed fast.

"Find out why this is and if it has anything to do with the long waiting time for the last mile connectivity," he said.

Lee added that the relevant authorities must coordinate their efforts.

"We need government departments and all others related to this subject to work together and plan in totality."

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push to encourage walking and cycling.

"We need good sheltered walkways to promote walking."

She said a congestion charge to drive into busy roads should be considered for private vehicle users.

"This has been done in cities like Singapore and London and it can be carried out here."

The smart traffic management must be implemented whereby road integrated transport information system (ITIS) highlights options on travel routes depending on traffic situation.

Big data needs to be collected to give road users the information they need on route options.

She added that urban planning must encourage the use of public transport.

"A good example would be the KL Gateway where there is residential living on top of the mall and a connecting bridge from the premises to the LRT station.

"This will promote more use of public transport.

"People in Japan are willing to travel 200km to work because their transport systems are connected," she said.

Suhana also encouraged organisations to consider remote working: "To bring down commuting, organisations could reduce the number of days people have to travel to the office for work."

Staggering work hours would also be effective to see results on road traffic.

"Some organisation provide options and allow their staff to come to work at 7.30am or 8am.

"This can help ease traffic," she said. — **By SHEILA SRI PRIYA**

Suhana says organisations should consider remote working to reduce the number of days people have to travel to the office.

There needs to be more dedicated bus lanes, allowing buses to move faster, the senior lecturer says. — Filepic

Monitor sugar content in menus at govt events, say experts

KUALA LUMPUR: Effective monitoring and evaluation of sugar content in menus at government events is crucial to ensuring the success of the newly-implemented sugar reduction initiative, say experts.

Assoc Prof Dr Norazmir Md Nor from the Faculty of Health Sciences of Universiti Teknologi MARA said the immediate goal should be to achieve a 50% reduction in sugar content.

"Regular monitoring and reporting is vital to ensure that the objective is met. This will significantly enhance our efforts to check sugar intake," he told Bernama.

Assoc Prof Norazmir's comments follow a recent directive from the Cabinet for a 50% reduction in sugar content in beverages served at all government events.

The directive is part of a broader strategy to promote a healthier lifestyle.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil, who announced the decision on Thursday, said the move was prompted by the 2023 National Health and Morbidity Survey report, which revealed that 15.5% of Malaysia's adult population were diagnosed with diabetes.

Less sugar, more benefits: A poster reminding people to consume less sugar is displayed at a cafeteria in Kuala Lumpur. — AZHAR MAHFOF/The Star

Assoc Prof Norazmir recommended using alternative or artificial sweeteners to replace natural sugars, as studies show these alternatives could reduce sugar intake without compromising on food taste.

He suggested reducing the sizes of dessert and sweet beverage portions and providing fewer sweet options.

"Offering sugar-free or low-sugar beverages, such as unsweetened tea, sugar-free lemonade, or plain water, along with reducing dessert and sweet drink portions, can lower overall calorie and sugar consumption," he said.

Assoc Prof Dr Zahara Abdul Manaf of the Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, advised event organisers to select foods low in sugar, oil, fat and salt.

"The Health Ministry has issued healthy eating guidelines for meetings that can serve as a reference for all of us," she said, adding that these reductions should be formalised into workplace policies, including informing food vendors and all staff members.

She recommended against serving sugary drinks at every meal.

"Priority should be given to providing plain water, fresh lemon juice or green tea," she added.

Galen Centre for Health and Social Policy chief executive officer Azrul Mohd Khalib said to ensure the Health Ministry's "war on sugar" campaign was effective, the government should not just increase excise duties on sugar-sweetened beverages.

"Sugar should also be removed from the list of controlled items under the Price Control and Anti-Profiteering Act 2011," he added.

He said Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad was right to highlight sugar consumption as a key issue in tackling Malaysia's obesity crisis.

He said the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2019 estimated that Malaysians consumed an average of 12 teaspoons of sugar daily from sugary beverages.

The survey further revealed that the highest prevalence of non-communicable diseases was among individuals aged 60 and above (38%), followed by those aged 50-59 (28.8%), 40-49 (15.2%), 30-39 (6.5%), and 18-29 (3.2%).

THE STAR
05 AUG 2024
Tarikh:

Rising obesity crisis a big concern

Regular health checks necessary to curb non-communicable diseases

By RAHIMY RAHIM
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PETALING JAYA: The Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) is calling for mandatory health screenings for civil servants to combat the escalating obesity crisis.

Cuepacs president Datuk Dr Adnan Mat said that the issue not only affects civil servants but the population as well.

"The problem of obesity among Malaysians needs to be taken more seriously because it should not be normalised.

"To ensure that control measures are implemented, Cuepacs believes that mandatory periodic health checks for public servants should be carried out, especially for those aged 40 and above or showing signs of weight issues," he said in a statement yesterday.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali on Saturday said that there is a need for healthy activities among civil servants due to a significant obesity rate.

Mohd Zuki said this is crucial given that obesity rates have surpassed 50% of the population, with a significant number being civil servants in Putrajaya.

Adnan said that coordinated efforts between government agencies should be conducted to deal with the issue effectively.

"A collaborative approach involving the Health Ministry and Youth and Sports Department to identify at-risk civil servants and implement intervention programmes should be undertaken.

"The effectiveness of each intervention programme implemented needs to be evaluated to achieve the set objectives," said the Cuepacs president.

Multi-pronged approach: (From left) Adnan, Dr Zainal and Prof Dr Sharifa call for more healthy eating options and incentives to exercise.

Successful participants would undergo regular check-ups to prevent relapse.

"The same measures can be implemented in the private sector to ensure a healthy lifestyle is maintained.

"Coordinated action by respective employers can help reduce the problem of obesity more effectively," he added.

Public health expert Datuk Dr Zainal Ariffin Omar said the government had implemented various campaigns on obesity and prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) but it should go beyond campaigns.

He also proposed that the government look into providing incentives on production and sale of healthy food and beverages.

The government should also offer incentives for companies providing support on healthy lifestyles for their employees, including providing sports equipment, clubs or insurance, h added.

The authorities should als find ways to reduce advertise ments on unhealthy food an beverages, said Dr Zainal Ariffi

Public health specialist Prof D Sharifa Ezat Wan Puteh said eac government department or offic should be encouraged to adopt sports theme and it should b considered part of their task considering that a majority o them have no time to do physica activities after work.

"Workplaces should also b encouraged to have recreationa areas suitable for sports to pro mote physical activities.

"A healthy eating cultur should also be provided in res taurants at Putrajaya, includin calorie labelling and activities t burn those calories.

"Restaurants that offer health low-calorie food should be give incentives to encourage existin restaurants to provide health low-calorie meals," she added.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 0 5 AUG 2024

DBKL serbu empat lokasi, roboh struktur tambahan atas jalan awam

5/8 Final

KUALA LUMPUR - Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) merobohkan struktur tambahan di atas rizab jalan awam dalam Operasi Bersepadu di sekitar Jalan Sultan, Lorong Sultan, Jalan Tan Cheng Lock dan Jalan Hang Lekir di sini pada Sabtu.

DBKL dalam satu kenyataan memaklumkan, tindakan diambil menerusi Jabatan Penguatkuasaan bersama Jabatan Kejuruteraan Mekanikal, Jabatan Kejuruteraan Awam dan Saliran, Jabatan Kesihatan dan Alam Sekitar serta Pejabat Cawangan Bukit Bintang, Lembah Pantai, Batu, Segambut, Bandar Tun Razak dan Cheras.

Turut terlibat, beberapa agensi sahabat lain seperti Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB), Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM) dan Syarikat Bekalan Air Selangor (Syabas).

"Kesemua sisa struktur (yang telah dirobohkan) telah dilupuskan oleh DBKL selepas tamat operasi yang dijalankan," ujar DBKL di laman Facebook rasminya.

Tambah DBKL, pihaknya akan meneruskan tindakan dan pemantauan dari semasa ke semasa di lokasi tumpuan yang telah dikenal pasti.

Sebarang aduan, orang awam boleh berhubung atau menyalurkan maklumat di pautan *http://adukl.dbkl.gov.my/eApps/system/index.do.*

Kesemua sisa struktur yang dirobohkan dilupuskan oleh DBKL selepas tamat operasi.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 0 5 AUG 2024

Obesiti: Wajibkan penjawat awam 40 tahun ke atas buat pemeriksaan

5/8 Sinar

SHAH ALAM - Kerajaan disaran mewajibkan penjawat awam berusia 40 tahun dan ke atas, terutamanya mereka yang mula menunjukkan tanda-tanda obesiti agar melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan berkala sebelum diserap dalam program intervensi.

Presiden Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-Pekerja Dalam Perkhidmatan Kerajaan (Cuepacs) Datuk Dr Adnan Mat berkata, program dengan kerjasama dengan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) serta Jabatan Belia dan Sukan (JBS) itu boleh dilakukan untuk mengawal dan memantau kumpulan penjawat awam yang mempunyai masalah obesiti.

Menurutnya, perlaksanaan program tersebut bertujuan mengenal pasti kumpulan penjawat awam berisiko dan faktor penyumbang kepada masalah tersebut, disusuli dengan merangka dan melaksanakan program intervensi.

Katanya, setiap program intervensi yang dilaksanakan perlu dinilai keberkesanannya supaya mencapai objektif yang ditetapkan.

"Hanya peserta yang menunjukkan penurunan positif sahaja boleh dibebaskan daripada program intervensi yang dilaksanakan tetapi perlu melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan secara berkala bagi mengelakkan mereka kembali bermasalah.

"Perkara yang sama boleh dilaksanakan di sektor swasta bagi memastikan golongan pekerja di Malaysia mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat di samping melakukan aktiviti pekerjaan lain. Tindakan bersama oleh majikan masing-masing boleh membantu mengurangkan masalah obesiti di Malaysia dengan lebih berkesan," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Ahad.

> *Cuepacs melihat masalah obesiti dalam kalangan penjawat awam lebih kepada tabiat pemakanan dan gaya hidup individu tersebut."*
>
> \- Adnan

Pada Sabtu Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali mendedahkan sebanyak 50 peratus penjawat awam di Putrajaya mengalami masalah berat badan berlebihan atau obesiti.

Justeru, penjawat awam digalakkan untuk menjalankan pelbagai aktiviti sihat sebagai usaha memperoleh tahap kesihatan yang lebih baik.

Mengulas lanjut Adnan berkata, masalah berat badan berlebihan bukanlah suatu perkara yang baharu di Malaysia dan tidak hanya membabitkan penjawat awam.

Justeru, masalah kegemukan rakyat Malaysia perlu diambil perhatian lebih serius oleh semua pihak kerana perkara tersebut tidak sepatutnya dinormalisasikan.

"Obesiti adalah faktor risiko kepada diabetes, hipertensi, kolesterol tinggi dan sakit jantung. Cuepacs melihat masalah obesiti dalam kalangan penjawat awam lebih kepada tabiat pemakanan dan gaya hidup individu tersebut.

"Untuk menangani obesiti secara berkesan sebenarnya datang daripada dalam diri kita sendiri. Jika kita perhatikan, sudah banyak program kesedaran kesihatan dibuat misalnya membabitkan media massa, selain kempen penerangan awam. Banyak juga maklumat pendidikan mengenai pemilihan makanan yang sihat dihebahkan sebelum ini," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 0 5 AUG 2024

Penjawat awam wajib buat pemeriksaan kesihatan

5/8 Kosmo

PEMERIKSAAN secara berkala dicadang dilakukan ke atas penjawat awam yang mempunyai tanda-tanda obesiti dan berusia 40 tahun ke atas. – GAMBAR HIASAN

PETALING JAYA – Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-Pekerja Dalam Perkhidmatan Kerajaan (Cuepacs) mencadangkan agar penjawat awam diwajibkan melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan secara berkala bagi mereka yang sudah menunjukkan tanda-tanda obesiti dan berusia 40 tahun ke atas.

Presidennya, Datuk Dr. Adnan Mat berkata, selain itu, program kerjasama dengan Kementerian Kesihatan serta Jabatan Belia dan Sukan boleh dilakukan bertujuan mengawal dan memantau penjawat awam yang mempunyai masalah obesiti.

"Objektif khusus program ini adalah mengenal pasti kumpulan penjawat awam berisiko dan faktor kepada penyumbang masalah tersebut kemudian disusuli dengan program intervensi.

"Hanya peserta yang menunjukkan penurunan positif sahaja boleh dibebaskan daripada program intervensi tetapi perlu melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan secara berkala bagi mengelakkan masalah kembali berulang," katanya dalam kenyataan hari ini.

Untuk rekod, laporan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi 2023 menunjukkan 54.4 peratus rakyat dewasa Malaysia ada berat badan berlebihan.

Rekod itu meningkat tiga peratus berbanding 50.1 peratus pada 2019 melibatkan semua rakyat Malaysia yang tidak mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat.

Justeru, Adnan berkata, isu kesihatan itu perlu diambil perhatian lebih serius oleh semua pihak dan ia tidak sepatutnya dinormalisasikan.

"Masalah ini bukan libatkan penjawat awam sahaja. Obesiti dan berlebihan berat badan adalah faktor risiko kepada diabetes, hipertensi, kolesterol tinggi dan sakit jantung.

"Cuepacs lihat masalah obesiti penjawat awam lebih kepada tabiat makan dan juga gaya hidup individu tersebut," ujarnya.

KOSMO
Tarikh: 05 AUG 2024

Kenderaan asing boleh isi diesel maksimum 20 liter dalam radius 30km

HM 5/8

Papar: Kenderaan asing hanya dibenarkan mengisi minyak diesel tidak melebihi 20 liter di stesen minyak Sabah dan Sarawak yang beroperasi dalam radius 30 kilometer dari sempadan Brunei atau Indonesia, kata Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali.

Beliau berkata selepas radius 30 kilometer itu, warganegara asing boleh membeli diesel pada kuantiti diperlukan dengan syarat isian itu hanya ke dalam tangki kenderaan mereka sahaja.

Armizan berkata ia berdasarkan Arahan Pengawal Bekalan Di bawah Peraturan 12A, Peraturan-peraturan Kawalan Bekalan 1974 berhubung Larangan Penjualan Diesel dan Petrol RON95 kepada kenderaan berpendaftaran asing yang sedang berkuatkuasa dan dikeluarkan pada 17 Jun 2022.

"Terdapat kekeliruan di stesen minyak tertentu apabila tular larangan jualan minyak diesel kepada kenderaan asing, mereka khuatir dan keliru dengan peraturan yang sedia ada yang sebenarnya telah dikeluarkan sejak Jun 2022.

"Kita mahu lindungi hak rakyat kita untuk subsidi terbabit, tetapi pada masa sama kita prihatin kerana bagi kita kedatangan pelancong ke Sabah dan Sarawak ini penting untuk ekonomi setempat," katanya kepada pemberita selepas menghadiri program Jualan Rahmah Papar dan Program Battle of Ethnic di sini malam kelmarin.

Beliau berkata demikian mengulas hantaran tular menerusi media sosial berkaitan konvoi kenderaan pelancong dari Brunei yang menyertai acara *off-road* atau luar jalan raya di Sarawak, namun kumpulan itu berdepan kesukaran mengisi diesel kerana stesen minyak di laluan mereka enggan menjual diesel kepada kenderaan asing.

Armizan berkata isian maksimum 20 liter diesel juga terpakai kepada stesen minyak di Semenanjung yang terletak dalam radius 50 kilometer dari sempadan Thailand dan Singapura berdasarkan peraturan sama, dan warganegara asing boleh mengisi minyak diperlukan dalam kenderaan selepas radius itu.

"Kita mahu lindungi hak rakyat kita untuk subsidi terbabit, tetapi pada masa sama kita prihatin"

Armizan

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 05 AUG 2024.

LANGGAR POLISI TIADA HADIAH

HM 5/8

Mengejutkan dasar sudah tak dipatuhi

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Kuala Lumpur

Transparency International-Malaysia (TI-M) menyifatkan adalah amat mengejutkan apabila Polisi Tiada Hadiah yang sudah ada tidak dipatuhi oleh penjawat awam dan tiadanya tindakan diambil terhadap mereka.

Presiden TI-M Dr Muhammad Mohan berkata, perkara itu jelas menunjukkan ketidakpatuhan dan kegagalan tatakelola.

"Transparency International Malaysia sudah berulang kali menggesa kerajaan untuk mengambil tindakan tatatertib tegas terhadap pegawai awam kerana gagal dalam tugas fidusiari mereka termasuk pemecatan.

"Hanya dengan memberi amaran, membekukan kenaikan pangkat mereka atau berpindah ke jabatan lain tidak akan meningkatkan tatakelola di sektor awam," katanya dalam satu kenyataan kepada Harian Metro, semalam.

Terdahulu, Pengerusi Suruhanjaya Integriti Agensi Penguatkuasaan (EAIC) Tan Sri Dr Ismail Bakar dilaporkan berkata, pemberian hadiah, keraian atau tajaan dalam program di perkhidmatan awam yang dianggap amalan hormat serta tanda penghargaan, dikhuatiri membuka ruang kepada tabiat memberi dan menerima rasuah.

Ismail berkata, penjawat awam perlu mengelakkan amalan itu dan patuh Polisi Tiada Hadiah terutama ketua jabatan kena berwaspada, adakah hadiah itu memberi kesan menyukarkan mereka melaksanakan peraturan jabatan disebabkan hadiah terbabit.

DR MUHAMMAD

Mengulas lanjut, Muhammad turut mempersoalkan bagaimana skor indeks persepsi rasuah (CPI) negara ini boleh bertambah baik jika tabiat lama seperti itu masih diamalkan.

"CPI ukuran holistik dan penunjuk tatakelola baik, ketelusan, akauntabiliti dan komitmen kerajaan terhadap pembaharuan. Indeks ini di mana Malaysia akan disenaraikan antara 180 negara di dunia.

"Ranking Malaysia pada 2023 adalah di tempat ke-57 dengan markah 50 peratus dan impian Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim ialah untuk mencapai ranking ke-25 pada 2033.

"Jadi, bagaimana skor CPI boleh bertambah baik jika kita terus mengamalkan tabiat lama?" katanya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau mencadangkan sekiranya Polisi Tiada Hadiah itu tidak praktikal, kerajaan boleh mengubahnya kepada dasar 'Hadiah dan Hospitaliti' dengan garis panduan yang jelas.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 05 AUG 2024

Rosak moral, prestasi pekerja

HM 5/8

Kuala Lumpur: Pemberian hadiah, keraian atau tajaan di perkhidmatan awam disifatkan satu kebimbangan yang sah kerana amalan berkenaan boleh mewujudkan persepsi negatif dan mengaburkan garis antara penghargaan tulen dan usaha untuk mendapatkan keistimewaan atau perlindungan.

Presiden Pemerhati Rasuah Malaysia (MCW) Jais Abdul Karim berpandangan, budaya itu juga boleh membebankan kakitangan awam terutama bergaji rendah yang mungkin terpaksa menyumbang bagi memastikan dilihat menyokong pihak atasan.

"Ini bukan sahaja tidak adil, tetapi juga boleh merosakkan moral dan prestasi kerja mereka.

"Untuk mengelakkan situasi ini, penting bagi semua pihak dalam perkhidmatan awam untuk mematuhi Polisi Tiada Hadiah yang ditetapkan.

"Polisi ini adalah langkah penting dalam mengekalkan integriti dan ketelusan dalam organisasi," katanya kepada Harian Metro di sini, semalam.

Mengulas mengenai adakah ia akan menjadi punca ramai penjawat awam muda mula gemarkan kepada rasuah, Jais berkata, pihaknya percaya budaya memberi hadiah dan keraian berlebihan boleh memberikan contoh yang buruk kepada mereka.

Menyentuh isu sama, aktivis sosial yang juga Pengerusi Pertubuhan Ikatan Komuniti Selamat, Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye berkata, satu garis panduan mengenai apa yang boleh dan tidak boleh diterima dalam perkhidmatan awam perlu dijelaskan oleh kerajaan.

"Garis panduan itu saya berasakan harus didedahkan supaya sektor swasta dan masyarakat memahami bahawa ada dasar seperti ini atau sesuatu polisi itu telah ditetapkan. Semua perkara ini masyarakat perlu diberitahu," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 05 AUG 2024

Syor wajibkan penjawat awam periksa kesihatan

5/8 BH

CUEPACS mahu program dilaksana bersama KKM, Jabatan Belia dan Sukan cegah obesiti

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Kuala Lumpur: CUEPACS mengesyorkan supaya penjawat awam berusia 40 tahun ke atas yang sudah menunjukkan tanda obesiti diwajibkan untuk melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan.

Presidennya, Datuk Adnan Mat, berkata program kerjasama dengan Kementerian Kesihatan (KKM) serta Jabatan Belia dan Sukan (JBS) boleh dilakukan untuk mengawal dan memantau kumpulan penjawat awam yang mempunyai masalah obesiti.

Katanya, objektif khusus program ini adalah mengenal pasti kumpulan penjawat awam berisiko dan faktor kepada penyumbang masalah terbabit, kemudian disusuli dengan merangka dan melaksanakan program intervensi.

"Setiap program intervesi dilaksanakan perlu dinilai keberkesanannya supaya mencapai objektif ditetapkan.

"Hanya peserta menunjukkan penurunan positif boleh dibebaskan daripada program intervensi dilaksanakan, tetapi perlu melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan berkala bagi mengelakkan kembali 'bermasalah' (mengalami obesiti)," katanya melalui kenyataan.

Adnan Mat

Beliau berkata demikian mengulas kenyataan Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali semalam yang memaklumkan 50 peratus penjawat awam di Putrajaya mengalami masalah obesiti dan berat badan berlebihan.

Tambah Adnan lagi, perkara sama boleh juga dilaksanakan di sektor swasta bagi memastikan golongan pekerja di Malaysia mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat, di samping melakukan aktiviti pekerjaan lain.

"Tindakan bersama oleh majikan masing-masing boleh membantu mengurangkan masalah obesiti di Malaysia dengan lebih berkesan," katanya.

Beliau memaklumkan, masalah berat badan berlebihan bukanlah perkara baharu dan ia tidak hanya babitkan penjawat awam.

Tabiat makan, gaya hidup

Menerusi laporan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS) KKM 2023, katanya, ia menunjukkan 54.4 peratus rakyat dewasa mengalami berat badan berlebihan, sekali gus meningkat tiga peratus berbanding 50.1 peratus pada 2019.

"Dalam hal ini, masalah kegemukan berlebihan bukan merujuk kepada penjawat awam saja, kerana ia membabitkan semua rakyat yang tidak mengamalkan gaya hidup sihat.

"Masalah kegemukan rakyat Malaysia perlu diambil perhatian lebih serius semua pihak kerana perkara ini tidak sepatutnya dinormalisasikan. Masalah ini bukan membabitkan penjawat awam sahaja," katanya.

Adnan berkata, obesiti dan berlebihan berat badan adalah faktor risiko kepada diabetes, hipertensi, kolesterol tinggi dan sakit jantung dan CUEPACS melihat masalah ini dalam kalangan penjawat awam lebih kepada tabiat pemakanan dan gaya hidup individu.

"Untuk menangani obesiti secara berkesan sebenarnya datang daripada dalam diri kita sendiri.

"Jika kita perhatikan sudah banyak program kesedaran kesihatan dibuat misalnya membabitkan media massa, selain kempen penerangan awam. Banyak juga maklumat pendidikan mengenai pemilihan makanan yang sihat dihebahkan," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 05 AUG 2024

PWM bantu pekerja bergaji rendah nikmati kenaikan

578 BH

Pelaksanaan Model Gaji Progresif (PWM) di Singapura mencatatkan kemajuan yang ketara dalam membantu pekerja bergaji rendah di negara itu menikmati peningkatan gaji yang baik.

Menteri Negara Kanan bagi Tenaga Manusia Singapura, Zaqy Mohamad, berkata dalam tiga hingga empat tahun yang lalu, pihaknya melihat kemajuan yang baik dari segi pelaksanaan PWM.

Beliau berkata, pelaksanaan PWM bersama langkah lain seperti Gaji Kelayakan Tempatan (LQS) dan skim akreditasi gaji progresif dikenali 'PW Mark' memanfaatkan sehingga sembilan dalam 10 pekerja bergaji rendah.

"Gaji 20 peratus terbawah meningkat kepada kira-kira 30 peratus berbanding median iaitu kira-kira 22 peratus.

"Adalah baik apabila melihat gaji di bahagian bawah meningkat lebih pantas daripada median, kerana ia memberitahu bahawa jurang pendapatan semakin mengecil. Di situlah kami melihat bahawa langkah kami berhasil," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian dalam sesi bual bicara santai bersama peserta Program Lawatan Wartawan Malaysia (MJVP) ke-16 anjuran Kementerian Penerangan dan Pembangunan Digital Singapura (MDDI) baru-baru ini.

PWM diperkenalkan di Singapura pada 2012 dengan mulanya memfokuskan pada sektor tertentu seperti pembersihan, keselamatan dan landskap.

Sejak itu, PWM telah meluaskan jangkauannya ke industri lain, seperti makanan dan minuman (F&B), runcit dan logistik.

Mengenai sama ada Singapura berdepan isu 'brain drain' atau penghijrahan bakat, Zaqy berkata, sebenarnya, Singapura menggalakkan rakyatnya mendapat pendedahan kerjaya di luar negara.

Beliau berkata, aduan yang sering diterima adalah rakyat negara ini terlalu selesa bekerja di dalam negara dan mereka enggan keluar dari Singapura.

"Saya fikir jika ingin berjaya, mengambil jawatan kepimpinan, mengambil peranan global Asia-Pasifik, anda perlu mengembara keluar dari Singapura.

"Sama ada Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta atau Manila, saya mahu mereka (rakyat Singapura) di luar sana mendapat pemahaman yang lebih baik mengenai cara ASEAN berfungsi.

"Jadi, apabila mereka kembali ke Singapura, mereka memahami nuansa, dan bagaimana untuk menguruskan orang lain," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 05 AUG 2024

AI disalah guna sebar ideologi keganasan, rekrut ahli baharu

5/8 BH

SEARCCT kesan kumpulan pengganas guna teknologi program propaganda dalam pelbagai bahasa

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Eksklusif

Kuala Lumpur: Kumpulan pengganas antarabangsa dikesan menggunakan teknologi kecerdasan buatan (AI) bagi memperluaskan penyebaran ideologi dan propaganda serta menarik penyertaan anggota baharu, khususnya golongan muda.

Strategi itu dikesan Pusat Serantau Asia Tenggara Bagi Mencegah Keganasan (SEARCCT), yang sebelum ini turut mengenal pasti media sosial dan permainan video dalam talian digunakan sebagai saluran terkini pengganas menyedia dan menyebar bahan berunsur radikal serta ekstrem.

Berdasarkan kajian dan analisis agensi di bawah Kementerian Luar itu, kumpulan pengganas menggunakan AI untuk memprogramkan propaganda dalam pelbagai bahasa yang disesuaikan dengan keadaan sosiolinguistik sasaran mereka.

Ketua Pengarah SEARCCT, Datuk Ganeson Sivagurunathan, mengakui cabaran keganasan dan ekstremisme adalah dinamik dan berevolusi yang perlu dihadapi, termasuk oleh rakyat di negara ini seiring perkembangan teknologi.

"Penyalahgunaan teknologi baharu oleh pengganas menimbulkan cabaran besar, bukan hanya di Malaysia tapi turut dihadapi komuniti global," katanya kepada *BH*.

Selain penyalahgunaan internet dan media sosial untuk sebar propaganda, radikalisasi dan merekrut ahli baharu kumpulan pengganas, beliau berkata, cabaran bertambah kompleks dengan kewujudan teknologi baharu yang semakin canggih.

"Teknologi baharu itu seperti AI, permainan dalam talian, mata wang kripto, dron dan percetakan tiga dimensi (3D)," katanya menegaskan tiada satu kelompok pun boleh dikatakan lebih rentan berbanding kelompok lain kerana pengaruh dan ancaman berkenaan merentas peringkat umur dan lapisan sosial.

Katanya, kumpulan pengganas akan merekrut individu dari pelbagai latar belakang, termasuk berdasarkan tahap pendidikan dan peringkat umur, namun belia menjadi antara sasaran utama kerana sinonim dengan penggunaan media sosial yang tinggi, malah boleh dikatakan warga natif digital.

"Belia mungkin terdedah kepada pelbagai bahan dalam talian yang disebarkan kumpulan pengganas yang menggunakan teknik canggih seperti penggunaan bahasa dan imej yang relevan serta dekat dengan golongan itu," katanya.

Tegasnya, walaupun tiada kes membabitkan keganasan dan ancaman dari AI di Malaysia setakat ini, pihaknya tetap melakukan persiapan dengan memantau perkembangan pesat penggunaan AI dalam negara, selain sudah terdapat penyalahgunaan teknologi itu oleh kumpulan pengganas di luar negara.

Rangka pelan tindakan

Bagi mengekang penyebaran propaganda kumpulan pengganas menggunakan AI, Ganeson memaklumkan, pihaknya merangka beberapa pelan tindakan, antaranya menerusi bengkel SEARCCT yang fokus kepada aktiviti mempromosi kesedaran awam mengenai daya tahan digital.

"Seiring perkembangan teknologi, pendekatan digunakan SEARCCT turut melibatkan teknologi baharu. Sebagai contoh, dalam program pembinaan kapasiti bersama belia, kami mengguna pakai aplikasi generatif AI seperti ChatGPT.

"Peserta guna ChatGPT untuk menjana kandungan berasaskan teks, mencipta kandungan media sosial yang mempromosi naratif positif atau alternatif sebagai usaha membina daya tahan digital dalam kalangan pengguna internet.

"Pendekatan ini memberi peluang peserta menimba pengalaman dan praktikal mengenai manfaat dan risiko tekonologi berkenaan," katanya menjelaskan pelan tindakan lain adalah menerusi program teknologi dan inovasi dalam membina serta meningkatkan daya tahan (TIBER).

Melalui program itu, katanya, aplikasi generatif AI turut digunakan sebagai alat bantuan untuk peserta menghasilkan naratif balas terhadap ideologi songsang kumpulan pengganas dalam ruang digital.

"SEARCCT juga sedang menjalankan penyelidikan dalam AI, objektif utama untuk mengesan dan mencegah penyalahgunaan AI oleh kumpulan pengganas.

"Kami harap penyelidikan ini dapat membantu agensi penguatkuasaan undang-undang, penggubal dasar dan agensi-agensi kerajaan dalam mewujudkan kesedaran dan kompetensi terhadap ancaman penyalahgunaan AI yang semakin berkembang," katanya.

Menegaskan kemahiran dan literasi digital masyarakat perlu dipertingkatkan bagi memastikan daya tahan digital mampan dan utuh, beliau berkata, ia perlu sebagai benteng kepada ancaman dan risiko yang datang bersama teknologi terbabit.

"Kami sentiasa berusaha meningkatkan pengetahuan dan kemahiran dalam teknologi baharu, terutama dalam memahami daya tarikan yang menjadikan teknologi rentan terhadap penyalahgunaan oleh kumpulan pengganas.

"Pengetahuan dibina bukan sahaja melalui program pembangunan kapasiti, tetapi juga penyelidikan bidang baharu seperti permainan dalam talian, penggunaan AI dalam pencegahan keganasan, maklumat salah serta penyalahgunaan internet oleh kumpulan pengganas," katanya.

INFO

SEARCCT

- Ditubuhkan 2003, anjur pelbagai kursus, latihan dengan kerjasama banyak negara
- Fokus 7 bidang teras;
  - Penyiasatan dan perundangan
  - Kimia, biologi, radiologi, nuklear dan bahan letupan (CBRNE) serta pengurusan krisis
  - Keselamatan penerbangan, maritim dan pengangkutan
  - Keganasan siber
  - Pencegahan dan pemulihan
  - Pembiayaan keganasan
  - Belia dan keganasan

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 05 AUG 2024

Undang-undang keselamatan siber

Penyampaian maklumat telus jadi elemen penting

5/8 BH

Usaha kerajaan disalah tafsir masyarakat perlu diperbetulkan

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Siraj (dua dari kiri) bersama Pengerusi Malaysia Cybersecurity Community Raw Security (RawSec), Tahrizi Tahreb pada podcast Borak Harini di Studio Multimedia NSTP, Bangsar, semalam. (Foto Genes Gulitah/BH)

Kuala Lumpur: Kehendak politik yang kuat dan penyampaian maklumat semaksimum mungkin kepada masyarakat perlu dilakukan kerajaan untuk memastikan hasrat meningkatkan keselamatan siber negara dicapai sepenuhnya.

Ketika ini usaha kerajaan ke arah itu dilihat disalah tafsir pelbagai pihak dengan menganggap kerangka kawal selia bagi perkhidmatan pesanan internet dan media sosial yang ingin diwujudkan sebagai cubaan kerajaan mengurangkan kebebasan suara.

Presiden Persatuan Pengguna Siber Malaysia, Siraj Jalil, berkata kerajaan hari ini mempunyai keunikan tersendiri khususnya dalam membentuk dasar yang dilihat tidak biasa kepada negara.

"Kerajaan hari ini mempunyai tahap keberanian yang mungkin tidak ditonjolkan kerajaan terdahulu, khususnya dalam mencabar syarikat gergasi ini.

"Ini menunjukkan walaupun kecil, kita mempunyai kekuatan tersendiri dalam soal keselamatan siber negara.

"Oleh itu, adalah bertepatan untuk Malaysia menjadi pendahulu dalam isu kawal selia digital ini di rantau ASEAN, lebih-lebih lagi kita akan menjadi Pengerusi ASEAN pada tahun depan. Saya yakin, usaha dilakukan Malaysia hari ini akan menjadi perkara lebih besar," katanya dalam *podcast Borak Harini* yang disiarkan melalui *BH Online*, semalam.

Tepis maklumat palsu

Beliau berkata, *transparency* atau ketelusan dalam penyampaian maklumat kepada segenap lapisan masyarakat menjadi elemen paling penting untuk kerajaan menangkis maklumat tidak benar berhubung pelaksanaan tatakelola keselamatan digital itu.

"Sekiranya ada penyampaian yang tidak jelas, pastinya akan ada salah faham dan ia digunakan pihak tertentu untuk mengubah tujuan yang baik kepada yang buruk terhadap pengguna.

"Pembabitan pemegang taruh juga perlu dilakukan semaksimum mungkin. Mungkin ada yang kata ia membabitkan industri teknologi komunikasi dan maklumat (ICT), tetapi ia sebenarnya lebih daripada itu.

"Sebagai contoh dalam isu pedofilia atau penderaan kanak-kanak, perlunya pembabitan agensi Kementerian Pembangunan Wanita, Keluarga dan Masyarakat, manakala soal maksiat siber pula, pembabitan Jabatan Agama Islam adalah penting.

"Ini bagi memastikan setiap pandangan itu diterima dan menjadi sandaran untuk setiap tindakan dilakukan bagi mengekang jenayah siber," katanya.

Mengulas lanjut Siraj berkata, nilai kepercayaan menjadi teras paling penting dalam pembangunan ICT sesebuah negara dan pengukuhan tatakelola keselamatan digital yang mahu dilaksana kerajaan, supaya ia tepat dan diterima baik dalam industri.

"Nilai percaya ini paling penting untuk sesebuah syarikat ICT melabur dalam negara kerana jika mereka tidak percaya budaya masyarakat, pastinya sukar untuk membangunkan pusat data dalam negara.

"Ramai pelabur berada di negara ini disebabkan tahap keselamatan siber kita antara yang terbaik di rantau ini dan apabila kerajaan mahu melaksanakan kawal selia ini, pastinya ia memberi kesan positif kepada pelabur," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 0 5 AUG 2024

Perkenal dasar perumahan mesra rakyat, tawar untung munasabah

5/8 BH

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Presiden Pertubuhan Profesional Tanah Malaysia (PERTAMA)

Kejayaan negara menyediakan perumahan kepada rakyat banyak bergantung pada skim penyampaian dalam industri perumahan, iaitu cara rumah dapat disalurkan daripada pemaju kepada pembeli dengan sempurna.

Melalui skim penyampaian mesra rakyat, banyak masalah perumahan dapat diselesaikan lebih awal sebelum timbul pelbagai masalah berkaitan.

Tanpa skim penyampaian tepat, banyak masalah akan timbul termasuk lambakan rumah di pasaran, 'harga tengok sahaja, mampu milik', prasarana tidak sempurna dan bencana alam, retak dan rosak.

Baru-baru ini, Institut Penyelidikan Khazanah (KRI) mencadangkan semakan terhadap skim penyampaian perumahan kerana timbul keraguan terhadap skim penjualan rumah kepada pembeli apabila dijual sebelum siap dibina.

Skim ini dikatakan menimbulkan banyak masalah seperti ketidakmampuan membeli rumah dengan harga tinggi, spekulasi membebankan rakyat dan banyak rumah tidak dapat dijual.

Apatah lagi senario iklim ekonomi sekarang sederhana dan suram, harga barang meningkat, kadar faedah bank melonjak, harga hartanah tidak pernah mahu turun dan banyak kontraktor gulung tukar.

Terdapat dua skim penyampaian perumahan, iaitu Skim Jual Kemudian Bina (JKB) dan Skim Bina Kemudian Jual (BKJ) yang berbeza mengikut masa disiapkan dan bila pula jual beli berlaku di pasaran.

JKB seperti diamalkan sekarang menyaksikan banyak masalah dihadapi semua pihak terbabit. Pembeli terpaksa buat pinjaman lebih awal dan tempoh bayaran balik menjadi lebih panjang.

Pindah risiko kepada pembeli

Sebahagian besar daripada risiko dipindahkan daripada pemaju kepada pembeli. Apabila harga barang meningkat semasa pembinaan, risiko kenaikan harga barang binaan terpaksa diambil pemaju dan dipindahkan kepada pembeli melalui penundaan tarikh siap atau kadar untung pemaju tergugat.

Jika risiko ini tidak dapat diserap sepenuhnya, ia mungkin menyebabkan projek perumahan bukan lagi sekadar sakit, malah akan terbengkalai. Kebanyakan pembeli mempunyai kemampuan membeli rumah rendah dan tidak sanggup membayar balik pinjaman serta menyewa serentak.

Apabila harga naik mendadak bermakna wujud inflasi. Begitu juga spekulasi menyebabkan harga melonjak naik bagi pembelian berikutnya.

Justeru, BKJ boleh memberi impak besar kepada industri perumahan meskipun ia ada baik buruknya. Namun, ia memberi banyak peluang dan ruang kepada pembeli rumah, tetapi menimbulkan tekanan pula kepada pemaju.

Pembeli mempunyai pilihan rumah lebih banyak dari segi lokasi, bentuk dan jenis rumah, membanding harga dan nilai rumah, mengelak risiko banjir, memilih kemudahan serta prasarana termasuk jiran serta kejiranan disukai.

Cuma bagi pemaju menghadapi tekanan bukan kepalang. Mereka perlu modal lebih besar kerana tiada bayaran lebih awal daripada pembeli hingga terpaksa menanggung risiko kewangan.

Begitu juga risiko pasaran apabila iklim ekonomi jatuh merudum. Mereka tidak dapat memindahkan risiko ini kepada pembeli berbanding JKB, selain boleh bankrap apabila rumah siap dibina tidak laku di pasaran.

Senario ini boleh berlaku apabila pembeli boleh menilai pasaran mereka dan beralih kepada pasaran sewa, bukan membeli di pasaran modal.

Jadi, pasaran sewa akan meningkat apabila pengguna beralih kepada Sewa untuk Milik (RTO).

Bagi pembeli terutama golongan muda dan B40, senario ini memudahkan mereka kerana kurang mampu untuk membeli. Begitupun, peratus pemilikan hartanah kediaman akan menurun.

Kesan baiknya pula pasaran hartanah menjadi lebih mampu milik apabila kurang spekulasi, kadar faedah boleh melandai dan harga rumah tidak menekan.

Sebaliknya, pemaju risau, bank gelisah, pembeli spekulasi gundah gulana tiada keuntungan dan kerajaan menerima kestabilan sosioekonomi lebih nyaman.

Soalnya, kenapa industri pembinaan hartanah enggan menerima skim BKJ? Alasan utama, pemaju enggan melaksanakannya atas dasar risiko dan keuntungan.

Selama ini, perundangan dan dasar perumahan memberi perhatian serta menyantuni pemaju, bukan pembeli rumah. Sampai masanya persepsi ini diubah.

Pembeli patut menjadi raja, bukannya pemaju. Kerajaan hanya pembuat polisi dan pemudah cara. Kerajaan Persekutuan dan negeri patut menggembleng tenaga menyelesaikan perumahan rakyat.

Perkenalkan dasar perumahan lebih baik dan mesra rakyat, sekali gus pemaju dapat untung munasabah dan jangan sampai rugi. Rakyat puas hati, bukan makan hati.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 0 5 AUG 2024

Perniagaan perlu daya tahan data landskap serangan siber

5/8 24

Perniagaan menghadapi cabaran yang belum pernah berlaku sebelum ini dalam mengekalkan integriti, ketersediaan dan keselamatan data, selain memastikan pematuhan terhadap undang-undang perlindungan data tempatan yang rumit.

Ini berikutan landskap serangan siber yang semakin kompleks pada masa kini.

Ketua Pegawai Teknologi Hitachi Vantara bagi Asia Pasifik, Matthew Hardman, berkata memandangkan jumlah data yang meningkat, organisasi perlu mengutamakan daya tahan infrastruktur data masing-masing.

Beliau berkata, persekitaran digital yang semakin berkembang menuntut perniagaan mengambil langkah mantap untuk melindungi maklumat penting di samping memerlukan pengurusan data dan pendekatan keselamatan yang proaktif.

"Sudah tiba masanya untuk organisasi mempertimbangkan daya tahan infrastruktur data masing-masing apabila jumlah data meningkat, justeru perlindungan mereka juga menjadi semakin penting.

"Banyak organisasi tidak bersedia sepenuhnya terhadap risiko yang timbul ekoran serangan dan gangguan siber. Kunci kepada perlindungan dan kesinambungan perniagaan terletak pada pelaksanaan strategi daya tahan data yang jelas," katanya kepada *BERNAMA*.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi mengulas gangguan teknologi maklumat (IT) global yang berlaku pada 19 Julai, sehingga menjejaskan perniagaan dan kerajaan di seluruh dunia.

Hardman berkata, gangguan itu menjejaskan kira-kira 8.5 juta peranti Windows di seluruh dunia.

"Kami mendapati perkhidmatan dan operasi terganggu merentas pelbagai industri, namun yang paling terjejas ialah perniagaan yang sangat bergantung pada fungsi komputer tanpa gangguan," katanya.

Beliau berkata, perkara itu antaranya membabitkan perbankan, penjagaan kesihatan, syarikat penerbangan, perkhidmatan kecemasan dan runcit.

"Sebagai contoh, sebahagian perkhidmatan kewangan dan perkhidmatan perbankan dalam talian terpaksa dilakukan secara luar talian, berlaku kelewatan penjagaan pesakit dalam tetapan apabila rekod pesakit tidak boleh diakses dan kami melihat berlaku kelewatan dan pembatalan penerbangan di seluruh dunia," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 05 AUG 2024

Waspada penyebaran berita palsu dihasilkan guna AI

Kulai: Kementerian Komunikasi meminta semua pihak yang terbabit dengan Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) Nenggiri supaya berhati-hati dalam penyebaran kandungan palsu yang dihasilkan oleh Kecerdasan Buatan (AI).

Timbalannya, Teo Nie Ching, berkata walaupun Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (MCMC) sentiasa memantau media sosial, AI disalah guna dalam kempen perlu disekat.

"Sekarang zaman AI, jadi saya nasihatkan semua pengguna media sosial apabila kita menerima sesuatu maklumat, kalau kita tak pastikan, jangan kongsi.

"Dengan AI ini senang sahaja untuk buat video, gambar yang disunting dan tentunya banyak juga 'scammer' yang guna pakai AI untuk buat video Perdana Menteri (Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim), video orang terkenal.

"Apabila kami menghadapi satu PRK kemungkinan ada orang sengaja guna pakai AI untuk buat kandungan media sosial palsu. Jadi, nasihat saya kepada semua ialah MCMC bersama PDRM dan semua pihak akan terus buat pemantauan apabila kita menerima aduan," katanya pada sidang media mengenai Program Sumbangan Pelajar Cemerlang peringkat Parlimen Kulai di Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra di sini, semalam.

Nie Ching turut menasihatkan agar pihak terbabit kempen PRK DUN Nenggiri tidak menyentuh isu berkaitan agama, bangsa dan institusi Diraja (3R) di media sosial.

Setakat ini, katanya, pihaknya tidak menerima sebarang laporan berhubung kesalahan itu, pada kempen yang memasuki hari kedua.

"Sekarang zaman AI, jadi saya nasihatkan semua pengguna media sosial apabila kita menerima sesuatu maklumat, kalau kita tak pastikan, jangan kongsi"

Teo Nie Ching, Timbalan Menteri Komunikasi

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 05 AUG 2024

Wajibkan saringan kesihatan cegah penjawat awam gemuk

um 5/8

PETALING JAYA: Kerajaan disaran mewajibkan pemeriksaan kesihatan secara berkala bagi menangani masalah obesiti dalam kalangan penjawat awam.

Presiden Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-pekerja Di Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (CUEPACS), Datuk Dr. Adnan Mat berkata, pemeriksaan itu perlu terutama bagi yang sudah menunjukkan tanda obesiti dan berada dalam lingkungan umur 40 tahun.

Menurutnya, program kerjasama antara Kementerian Kesihatan dan Jabatan Belia dan Sukan (JBS) boleh dilakukan untuk mengawal serta memantau kumpulan penjawat awam yang mempunyai masalah obesiti.

"Objektif khusus program ini adalah mengenal pasti kumpulan penjawat awam berisiko dan faktor kepada penyumbang masalah tersebut kemudian disusuli dengan merangka dan melaksanakan program intervensi.

"Setiap program intervensi yang dilaksanakan perlu dinilai keberkesanannya supaya mencapai objektif yang ditetapkan.

"Hanya peserta yang menunjukkan penurunan positif boleh dibebaskan daripada program intervensi yang dilaksanakan tetapi perlu melakukan pemeriksaan kesihatan berkala bagi mengelakkan kembali 'bermasalah,'" katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Kelmarin, Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali berkata, hampir 50 peratus penjawat awam mengalami masalah obesiti terutama di Putrajaya.

Oleh itu, katanya, penjawat awam berkenaan digalak menjalankan pelbagai aktiviti sihat sebagai usaha memperoleh tahap kesihatan yang lebih baik.

Sebelum ini, laporan Tinjauan Kebangsaan Kesihatan dan Morbiditi (NHMS) 2023 menunjukkan sebanyak 54.4 peratus rakyat dewasa Malaysia mengalami berat badan berlebihan.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 05 AUG 2024

Lesen media sosial tingkat keselamatan siber

um 5/8

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PETALING JAYA: Pengenalan lesen platform media sosial bermula tahun depan membolehkan kerajaan mempertingkatkan keselamatan siber negara dan melindungi pengguna daripada ancaman siber.

Timbalan Dekan Fakulti Sains Komputer dan Teknologi Maklumat, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM), Dr. Zubaile Abdullah berkata, namun tindakan itu perlu dilaksanakan dengan berhati-hati agar tidak menjejaskan kebebasan bersuara rakyat.

"Penyediaan lesen kepada platform media sosial boleh dianggap langkah baik jika bertujuan melindungi keselamatan siber dan pengguna daripada ancaman seperti penyebaran maklumat palsu, buli siber atau kandungan merosakkan.

"Namun, langkah ini mesti dilaksanakan dengan berhati-hati agar tidak menjejaskan kebebasan bersuara dan hak asasi pengguna. Oleh itu, kerajaan perlu memastikan bahawa proses pemberian lesen telus, adil dan tidak diskriminatif

"Selain itu, kerajaan perlu memastikan platform diberikan peluang untuk mematuhi peraturan tanpa mengalami penyekatan yang tidak wajar, keseimbangan antara menjaga keselamatan siber dan menghormati hak kebebasan bersuara," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia*.

Pada 27 Julai lalu, Suruhanjaya Komunikasi dan Multimedia Malaysia (SKMM) mengumumkan agensi itu boleh menyekat capaian kepada platform media sosial, membatalkan Lesen Kelas Pemberi Perkhidmatan Aplikasi atau mendakwa mana-mana penyedia perkhidmatan berlesen yang melanggar syarat atau tatalaku bermula 1 Januari 2025.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: ...0.5...AUG...2024....

PERTUMBUHAN PINJAMAN DIUNJUR KEKAL PADA 6.1 PERATUS

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um 5/8

PETALING JAYA: TA Sector Research mengekalkan unjuran pertumbuhan pinjaman sebanyak 6.1 peratus pada 2024, disokong oleh pertumbuhan pinjaman pengguna dan perniagaan masing-masing sebanyak 6.3 peratus dan 5.9 peratus.

Menurut nota penyelidikannya, firma mengulangi panggilan 'overweight' terhadap sektor perbankan berdasarkan pertumbuhan pinjaman yang meningkat dan kesetabilan margin faedah bersih (NIM).

Katanya, ini juga dipacu oleh potensi untuk pendapatan faedah bersih (NII) yang lebih tinggi, pecutan beransur-ansur dalam pendapatan yuran dan penampan modal dan kecairan yang sihat.

"Risiko penurunan yang berpotensi termasuk penurunan dalam kualiti aset disebabkan kebimbangan terhadap tekanan inflasi yang meningkat di tengah-tengah rasionalisasi subsidi dan kejutan luaran yang berterusan, sumbangan yang lebih lemah daripada operasi luar negara dan perbelanjaan yang tinggi secara konsisten.

"Walaupun terdapat risiko ini, tinjauan sektor ini kekal positif, disokong oleh petunjuk prestasi yang kukuh dan prospek pertumbuhan," katanya.

Firma penyelidikan tersebut menyarankan 'beli' bagi saham Public Bank, CIMB Bank, Maybank dan Hong Leong Bank.

PERTUMBUHAN pinjaman diunjur pada 6.1 peratus disokong oleh pertumbuhan pinjaman pengguna dan perniagaan. – GAMBAR HIASAN

"AMMB Holdings Berhad dan Alliance Bank diturunkan kepada 'pegang' disebabkan potensi pulangan risiko yang lebih kecil daripada kenaikan harga saham mereka baru-baru ini, manakala mengekalkan 'pegang' bagi RHB Bank dan 'jual' untuk Affin Bank," ujarnya.

Sementara itu, Kenanga Investment Bank Bhd mengekalkan penarafan 'overweight' pada sektor perbankan.

"Pusingan pasaran, seperti pertumbuhan pinjaman yang berterusan dan peningkatan Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) bersama-sama pengekalan margin yang lebih baik, dijangka terus membayangi tekanan industri seperti tekanan inflasi dan ringgit yang lebih lemah.

"Kami percaya ini berkemungkinan akan mengakibatkan lebih sedikit cabaran kepada daya tahan sektor ini.

"Sektor ini kekal menarik berikutan hasil dividen yang menarik (enak ke tujuh peratus pada kebanyakan saham, ditambah pula dengan turun naik sektor yang lebih rendah berbanding industri lain," ujarnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 05 AUG 2024

INCULCATING PATRIOTISM

Fly the Jalur Gemilang to show love for the country

ONCE again Malaysians are encouraged to fly the Jalur Gemilang in conjunction with the 67th Merdeka anniversary.

The national flag symbolises the patriotism, pride, unity and love for the nation.

Under a common flag, we attained independence and built our lives harmoniously irrespective of race, colour or creed.

I have no doubt Malaysians are proud of their flag.

In fact, it should not be just for Merdeka Day that Malaysians fly the flag. We should fly the flag on all formal occasions and if practical, every day.

I have observed in other countries that national flags were flown daily at government and private buildings, such as corporations, schools and community centres.

In Malaysia, many building owners do not fly the national flag except on Merdeka Day.

Even on that important day itself, there are many premises which do not fly the flag.

I suggest that buildings in Putrajaya take the lead and fly the Jalur Gemilang all the time.

Jalur Gemilang lining Dataran Merdeka in Kuala Lumpur on Friday. Public buildings should display the national flag year round. PIC BY AIMAN HARIZ AZHAR

What is most important here is to teach the younger generation to love our flag.

The future of our nation lies with our youths, so it is essential that we inculcate in them the spirit, love and pride for our Jalur Gemilang.

Schools should have a daily ceremony to hoist the national flag, besides singing *Negaraku*.

Ensuring our young respect and love the national flag is essential to build future generations of Malaysians with a strong sense of patriotism.

However I also need to stress here that flying the Jalur Gemilang is not the only way to express patriotism.

When we speak up and defend our country against any form of attacks, it is a patriotic act.

When we refrain from vandalising public property or littering in public places, we are patriotic.

When we contribute towards making our community free from crime or protecting our environment, we are patriotic.

Malaysians can display their patriotism through their words, thoughts and actions in the interest of the country and in nation-building.

Being patriotic also means contributing sincere opinions for the good of the country.

Expressing one's views on national affairs is a right and responsibility that should be practiced by all patriotic Malaysians.

Giving constructive criticisms in the interest of the nation does not make a person less patriotic.

TAN SRI LEE LAM THYE
National Unity Advisory Council

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Civil service salary hike may raise cost of living

Chain reaction would be triggered as govt seeks ways to fund obligations, says economist

Niaz said the costs associated with a civil service salary hike could potentially strain the financial resources raised from taxpayers. – *BERNAMAPIC*

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PETALING JAYA: With just three months until December, when civil servants receive a salary increase of over 13%, economists have expressed opposing views on whether it is a good idea, considering the substantial national debt of about RM1.5 trillion.

Economist and Southeast Asia Lead for the Global Labour Organisation Prof Niaz Asadullah said the national debt, massive civil service of 1.7 million personnel and pension payouts for retirees will considerably increase the financial burden.

"The country cannot afford a pay hike as the salary increase would impose a greater financial burden on taxpayers as the costs associated with a salary raise could potentially strain the financial resources raised from taxpayers," he said.

On May 1, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced the pay hike for civil servants, marking the first review in many years.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said under the revised Public Service Remuneration System, the government will ensure the minimum income for civil servants exceeds RM2,000 per month.

"Currently, the overall minimum income, comprising salary and fixed allowances, stands at RM1,795 per month.

"The highest salary increase was 13% about 12 years ago and this time, the government will ensure the increase surpasses that figure," Anwar said.

Niaz said the government might fund the pay hike through increased taxes or higher borrowings, which would mean further growing the national debt or reallocating budgetary resources.

"Additional financial pressure will only contribute to a higher cost of living as the government seeks ways to fund its obligations."

He said the government should pay more attention to improving the quality and efficiency of public services to ensure taxpayer resources are effectively utilised, and citizens receive services that meet their expectations.

However, Malaysia University of Science and Technology economist and lecturer Prof Geoffrey Williams said the government can afford the pay hike, but only if it cuts spending elsewhere.

Williams said civil servants, including teachers, nurses, social workers and those in essential services such as firefighters and ambulance workers are currently underpaid, so the salary hike would support those who deliver essential services.

"Currently, civil service wages are RM95.6 billion, or 31.5%, of operating costs. Adding civil service pensions of RM32.4 billion raises the figure to RM128 billion, or 42.1%, of spending, according to Budget 2024."

Williams said the pensions Bill will also rise in tandem with salary hikes, adding that this will remain for existing civil servants but the plan to put new hires on the Employees Provident Fund scheme will solve this problem.

"If the government insists on raising civil service salaries, it should first concentrate on lowering debt, halting borrowing, cutting wastage, leakage and corruption and pushing its subsidy rationalisation and fiscal reform agenda.

"Cutting the cost of living is difficult because prices will not come down. So, raising incomes should be the key priority for the government."

Putra Business School lecturer Assoc Prof Dr Ida Md Yasin said although there is an increase in the budget, the government still needs to consider the rising cost of living.

She said even with the pay hike, a RM2,000 minimum salary for civil servants is still low and requires the government to find better ways to support the people.

"Considering the current cost of living, a minimum salary of RM2,000 might not make much of a difference to civil servants. That kind of salary might be fine for a single person living in the city, but not for someone with a family.

"Instead, the government should narrow the gap between the rich and the poor by ensuring the people can cover their basic needs while also imposing higher taxes on the excess wealth of the rich."

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'Powerful' fallacy of MCMC

THERE is a fallacy that the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission (MCMC) is so powerful that it has the authority to take down any content that it deems offensive.

Let us look at some real cases. A desperate father turned to me for help because the former boyfriend of his daughter posted some private pictures online taken during happier times.

However, the man became nasty when the relationship fell apart and it got worse because these photographs suddenly appeared on some pornographic sites.

Reports were made but MCMC ran into obstacles because these foreign social platform owners do not need to act immediately.

Requests were made to the platform's "mediation and moderation panel" which took their time, refusing to reveal identities and citing they had no legal obligation to block anything.

Another case involved another culprit – a former boyfriend who posted pictures of his ex-girlfriend, calling her names and humiliating her online. The case is now pending in court after he was identified.

In my case, a person, known as a serial rabble-rouser, using different identities and accounts, had posted false and defamatory information on several people from his previous place of employment.

He targeted me – using his mother's mobile phone and picture to open an account under her name to attack me.

Police and MCMC reports were made, prompting the police to pay a visit to his house after his identity was ascertained and his statement taken. The police completed the case and made their recommendations to the prosecutors.

I have no intention to pursue the matter because, religiously, I believe in forgiving. I found out that his grief with me was that I am a friend of his ex-colleagues, which he had a grudge against. But each day, the police have to take down reports, ranging from scam cheating to cyber bullying, where innocent lives are destroyed through the loss of savings, humiliation and cheating.

No one talks about the victims. These social media platforms, which are making huge sums of money, take no responsibility for the sufferings of ordinary people, have no offices or representatives in Malaysia or are subject to any form of penalty.

For the media, content created by journalists has been taken and posted online without proper advertisements being shared with us.

It is healthy to read and hear Malaysians arguing over the government's move to propose a new regulatory framework to license social media platforms with at least eight million registered users.

The rule, which will take effect from Jan 1, 2025, has sparked debate, although the government has said it is to ensure a safer online environment for users.

Meta platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Google Chat) as well as TikTok, Telegram and X must apply for a licence from the government.

However, the biggest concern is that the move will affect the freedom of expression, in particular, criticism against the government.

Some see this regulation as a threat and compare it to the Printing Presses and Publications Act, which still needs a one-off permit application for all print newspapers and magazines.

They point out that Malaysia has submitted the world's highest number of content takedown requests in the second half of 2023. They have also pointed out that Malaysia's 2024 World Press Freedom ranking has dropped to 107th from 73rd, previously.

What is less said, if not totally ignored, is that 70% of the content removal requests were to stop online gambling and scams. The MCMC received over 3,400 complaints of hate speech between 2020 and 2023. During the same period, RM3.2 billion was lost to online scams.

Communications Minister Fahmi Fadzil reportedly said over RM1 billion was lost to online scams last year while not less than 10 cases of cyberbullying were reported daily.

Online gambling is also estimated to cost the government RM2 billion in tax revenue yearly. Some think it could be as high as RM5 billion annually.

> "Considering the nature of service, significant impact and reach of online platforms on Malaysian users' lives, it is imperative and timely that they are regulated under the CMA 1998."

From Jan 1 to July 13, data indicated that MCMC had requested 128,133 contents to be taken down, yet only 109,624 of them were removed. Of the total, 53% were related to online gambling, 22% were scams, 13% were false news, 5% were 3R (royal, race, religion) issues and another 5% were harassment.

Many who only read the English medium social media may not be aware of the numerous hate and racist comments that were posted at the height of the KK Mart issue.

Do we allow these in the name of press freedom with anonymous writers posting concocted information without having to take responsibility for their actions, particularly stealing the hard-earned money of ordinary Malaysians?

It is the senior uncles and aunties who need protection from being tricked into believing that they can get some extra income from their depleting savings.

However, there is also another element of concern – sexual predators posing as children and targeting minors online. While there is no specific tagging under paedophilia, the MCMC has received complaints related to online content involving child sexual exploitation.

The breakdown for these related cases is as follows – 77 (2021), 51 (2022), 75 (2023) and 17 (2024, as of July 24) – bringing the cumulative total to 220 cases over the last three years.

For scamming, the numbers are 3,449 (2021), 2,675 (2022), 4,180 (2023) and 2,466 (2024, as of July 24), with a cumulative total of 12,770.

MCMC commissioner Derek Fernandez said the government's move "aligns Malaysia with global developments, where regulatory measures are increasingly being implemented to hold these platforms accountable.

"Examples of such global trends include the European Union's Digital Services Act, which sets out obligations for platforms to limit the spread of illegal content and prohibit targeted advertisements to minors, and the introduction of similar regulatory frameworks in Asean countries such as Singapore, Indonesia and Vietnam."

Fernandez said Malaysia has robust laws in place, including the Communications and Multimedia Act 1998 (CMA 1998), to address various online harms.

However, these platforms may believe that these laws do not apply to them and are only applicable to local players.

"We are regulating these platforms to uphold the principle of equality before the law. Other industry players, such as broadcasting companies, telecommunications providers and internet service providers, are all regulated under the CMA 1998," he said.

Considering the nature of service, significant impact and reach of these platforms on every aspect of Malaysian users' lives, he stressed that it is imperative and timely that they are regulated under the CMA 1998.

"The proposed licensing framework will require these foreign platforms to register with the MCMC. Upon registration, these platforms will be obligated to comply with our relevant laws, including the CMA 1998 and the Personal Data Protection Act 2010," he said.

Fernandez said the biggest frustration of MCMC is that currently, no legal obligations are mandating these platforms to take proactive measures against online harms.

He said the proliferation of advertisements for illegal gambling and scams highlights this deficiency.

"Currently, these platforms are not sufficiently incentivised to enhance their operations to combat these issues as there is no legal requirement compelling them to do so," he said.

Any company that wants to operate in Malaysia must comply with our local laws. Why should there be any exceptions and exemptions?

The fear of regulating these technology providers is simply because we rely on their availability and the reluctance of the government to make unpopular decisions.

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