



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 07 OKTOBER 2024 (KHAMIS)

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'Sustainable planning crucial as Malaysia urbanises'

By IMRAN HILMY



GEORGE TOWN: Malaysia's urban population is projected to expand to 85% by 2050, says the Housing and Local Government Minister.

Nga Kor Ming (pic) said that currently, 75% of the population are living in urban and suburban areas.



The minister said sustainable planning is crucial for the overall well-being of urbanites, with innovation and competitiveness being equally important.

He said Malaysia is committed to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 endorsed by the United Nations.

"We are on the right track of achieving it, having reached 43% of all the 248 indicators, far above the world average of 17%," he told reporters after an event to mark World Habitat Day 2024 at Armenian Park here yesterday.

SDGs are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and is an urgent call for action by developed and developing countries to end poverty and other deprivations and improve health and education, reduce inequality and spur economic growth.

Nga said there is much room for improvement in the country, especially in terms of solid waste management, climate change and sustainable urban planning.

At the event, themed "Engaging Youth to Create a Better Urban Future", the minister commended the Ipoh City Council (MBI) for being awarded the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) Scroll of Honour Award for its Ipoh Doughnut Economics programme.

Ipoh Mayor Datuk Rumaizi Baharin is expected to accept the award with Ipoh Doughnut Economic City chief executive officer Dr Zulqarnain Mohamad in a ceremony held in conjunction with World Habitat Day in Queretaro, Mexico, today.

In a letter dated Aug 27, UN-Habitat executive director Anaclaudia Marinheiro Centeno Rossbach said the selection of Ipoh for the recognition was unanimous.

The decision was based on efforts to transition the city from a resource-intensive economy to a regenerative model focused on health, waste management and ecotourism while aligning with SDGs.

The Ipoh Doughnut Economic City programme was launched in March last year with a Yayasan Hasanah grant, and is a collaboration between the city council, Sunway University's Sunway Centre for Planetary Health (SCPH), Institut Darul Ridzuan and cultural agency People of Remarkable Talents.

It is one of the flagship programmes under the Perak Sejahtera 2030 development roadmap plan to turn Ipoh into a Doughnut Economic City by 2027.

In 2020, the Subang Jaya Municipal Council (now a city council) won the award for its holistic and integrated approach to affordable housing and community empowerment.

In 2011, the award was given to MMC-Gamuda for its Stormwater Management and Road Tunnel (SMART) project.

Nga urged all 156 local councils in the country to adopt similar initiatives in conjunction with World Habitat Day to demonstrate Malaysia's commitment to sustainable development.

THE STAR ONLINE
TARIKH : 07 OKTOBER 2024

'Sustainable planning crucial as Malaysia urbanises'

By IMRAN HILMY
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THE STAR

07 OCT 2024

Tarikh:

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
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RESTAURANTS and food traders in Klang's Little India play a role in ensuring drains in the commercial areas are clean and not clogged with rubbish and sludge, as this could lead to floods.

"Our cleaning crew often finds used cooking oil discarded in the drainage system of Little India," said Klang Royal City Council's (MBDK) Environmental Services Department director Zaireezal Ahmad Zainuddin.

"I urge all restaurant operators to stop this irresponsible act (of dumping used cooking oil into drains) as it adversely affects other businesses when it results in floods."

Zaireezal said this during a site visit to check on cleaning efforts by MBDK's crew.

A suction pump and high-pressure water jetter was used to flush out oil accumulated in a sump located at the intersection of Jalan Tengku Kelana and Lorong Tingkat in Klang.

"We need the restaurant operators' cooperation to properly discard used cooking oil," said MBDK health assistant Abdul Raziq Ahmad Ridzuan, who supervised the clean-up.

Zaireezal said restaurants have to instal and maintain grease traps, which would help

Klang's Little India eateries rapped for discarding used cooking oil in drains



Water entering shops along Jalan Tengku Kelana during a flash flood in August. — Filepic



MBDK's Environmental Services Department cleaning crew removing fats, oil and grease from a sump in Klang's Little India. — KK SHAM/ The Star

stop fats, oil and grease (FOG) from going directly into drains behind their premises.

Grease traps, fitted under sinks, filter grease out of wastewater.

"Our crew has identified FOG as a key factor that prevents wastewater and even rainwater from flowing freely in the drains, which leads to blockages

and causes backflow," said Zaireezal, adding that such greasy waste can be found lining the inside of drain walls and floating on the surface of the water.

"This is because some eateries are pouring used cooking oil and even food particles down the drain.

"This cause blockage, and

eventually results in floods along parts of Jalan Tengku Kelana, the main thoroughfare of Little India," he said.

On Sept 29, several parts of Little India were hit by flash floods.

MBDK's Health Department director Azmi Muji said health inspectors would soon conduct a spot check on restaurants in

Little India to ensure eateries there had not dismantled or failed to maintain their grease traps.

"Grease traps that prevent FOG from getting into drains have been compulsory since 2011, and eateries must instal them before a business licence is issued," he said.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 07 OCT 2024

'Appoint supervisors for facilities'

By AIDA AHMAD
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Special officers from local councils needed to monitor, maintain infrastructure in Klang, say residents

A RESIDENTS association coalition in Klang has echoed a call by *StarMetro* for local authorities to appoint dedicated supervisors to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure management in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur.

The Bandar Parklands Residents Association Coalition in Zone N46D of Bandar Bukit Tinggi 3 said the current system, which often relies on reactive measures and ad-hoc solutions, is insufficient.

They said issues such as poorly maintained roads, inadequate drainage systems and delayed repairs have become common in areas under the jurisdiction of Klang Royal City Council (MBDK).

As such, there is a need for more efficient and regular maintenance work by assigned contractors.

The group comprises about 10 neighbourhoods, including Kota Bayu Emas, Delima 4-5, Delima 15, Delima 16, D-Laman and Canary Garden KSL.

Kota Bayu Emas Residents Association (RA) deputy chairman Brian Raj said the dedicated infrastructure supervisors were needed.

They should be clad in special uniforms and be easily identifiable.

"Bandar Parklands was previously an oil palm estate.

"But it has gone through drastic changes with many development projects built,



Engaging citizens to report damaged structure

Dedicated personnel to detect, monitor broken infrastructure could be a valuable strategy for local



StarMetro report on Sept 21

(Left) Residents from Canary Garden KSL in Bandar Bukit Tinggi 3, Klang, have to resort to hiring their own contractor to repair broken infrastructure in their neighbourhood. — Courtesy photo

including the LRT3.

"Our area's councillor was only recently appointed; we were without one for seven months," said Brian.

The coalition was commenting on a report in the *StarMetro* Cityism column on Sept 21 ("Engaging citizens to report damaged structures") which urged local councils to streamline repairs and maintenance processes by hiring infrastructure supervisors.

Brian said when there is a change in councillors, a new person comes in and has to start all over again.

"Some councillors also have their own political agendas," he said in supporting the call by Selangor Ruler Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah for 50% of local councillors in the state to comprise professionals.

On channelling complaints through the Public Complaints Management System (Sispaa)

system, Delima 4-5 Parklands RA assistant secretary S. Ramachandren said not everyone was able to follow up using this method.

"Infrastructure supervisors can ensure timely response in resolving issues," he said.

"For example, an infrastructure supervisor could monitor the KDEB Waste Management contractors to ensure they are doing a proper job."

Delima 4-5 RA deputy chair-

man Capt (R) T. Thevendran said the coalition highlighted some of their issues to MBDK in March this year, such as requesting a maintenance schedule for all scopes of work, heavy vehicles parked in residential areas, uneven roads and potholes as well as abandoned cars.

The process of reporting issues can be streamlined further and problems monitored by a supervisor, he said.

THE STAR

07 OCT 2024

Tarikh:.....

By SHALINI RAVINDRAN
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SELANGOR government plans to announce measures to resolve strata issues in Budget 2025.

This is part of the state's efforts to help owners obtain strata titles for their properties, a long-standing issue affecting thousands of homeowners.

A task force, headed by Selangor Housing and Property Board (LPHS), has been set up to identify strata schemes that have yet to receive their titles.

It is also expected to present a working paper offering solutions to help owners obtain individual strata titles.

Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) is facilitating the strata title process for selected properties.

It is also expediting issuing titles to several older developments.

MPAJ formed the Monitor and Resolve Strata Title Issuance Processes (JKPPHS) sub-committee to identify issues and propose solutions.

The sub-committee, formed last year and which comprises different agencies, meets every three months.

MPAJ president Dr Ani Ahmad told *StarMetro* that each strata property had its own issues that needed to be addressed.

This included problems such as incomplete documentation, units still under master/block title and cases where the developers have gone under liquidation or been deemed insolvent.

"MPAJ has started to help with the strata title process of some properties which are more than

'Over 30% of properties in Ampang Jaya lack strata titles'



Riverdale Park Apartment in Bukit Antarabangsa is among the properties identified by MPAJ to receive assistance in the strata title issuance process.

20 years old, upon requests from affected residents.

"We estimate that at least 30% of strata properties in Ampang Jaya are affected, with most more than 20 years old."

Ani said the sub-committee had identified Flat Al Ridhuan, Estana Court and Riverdale Park Apartment under a pilot project.

The case of Riverdale Park Apartment in Bukit Antarabangsa, she said, was complex because the developer was under liquidation.

"However, a new developer has shown interest in developing several parcels of land in this property.

"We've made it a condition that if they want to develop the additional parcels, the strata title process for the existing units must be completed."

A briefing was held in July between MPAJ, the liquidators and residents on the matter.

Ani said the sub-committee was also tasked to compile data on the exact number of properties without titles and to identify the specific issues involved.

She added that the municipality was working with LPHS, Department of the Director-General of Lands and Mines



Ani says at least 30% of strata properties in Ampang Jaya are affected.

Selangor (JKPTG), resident associations and surveyors.

Ani agreed that although resolving strata title issues did not fall directly under the council's responsibilities, in the long run it would affect MPAJ as the assessment tax rates cannot be adjusted accordingly.

"In the future, if there are redevelopment plans, it will be hindered by strata title issues."

"There are many strategic properties that could be redeveloped but without the resolution of these strata title problems, we cannot move forward," she said.

Ampang Jaya People's Consultative Council advisor

M. Thomas said homeowners had approached him over the years for help.

"In the Ampang and Pandan areas, owners in over 30 property schemes are unable to get their strata titles."

"At least 40% of the cases are due to the developer no longer being in the picture," he said.

With the task force, he hoped a workable solution would be found.

Ampang Jaya resident Jeyaseelan Amalu, who owns a unit in Taman Dagang, said only 30% of owners had managed to get their individual strata titles in his condominium project.

"There needs to be proper guidelines to resolve this problem, especially with older properties."

"This (lack of titles) can delay the sale and purchase of strata units and affect their value."

In July, *StarMetro* reported Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari saying that the state would present a working paper to resolve strata ownership woes when tabling the state's budget.

He had said strata issues were less prevalent in newer developments, as with updated laws and regulations, developers were required to resolve land issues before getting approval for development.

Selangor housing and culture committee chairman Borhan Aman Shah was reported saying that the issue was prevalent in low-cost housing projects built in the 1990s.

He had said some owners of 549 low-cost housing schemes in the state were not issued strata titles.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 07 OCT 2024



Fairview Mansion in Taman Desa was built in 1979 and much of its infrastructure is ageing and in dire need of replacement.
— Photos: YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

DBKL to help apartment owners get strata titles

Fairview Mansion in Taman Desa part of pilot project to address issues faced by older properties in Kuala Lumpur

By BAVANI M
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FAIRVIEW Mansion is an ageing apartment complex on Jalan Bukit Desa in Taman Desa, Kuala Lumpur.

Built in 1979, the six-storey building, equipped with a lift, has only 30 units, all of which overlook a courtyard.

Although most of the current owners are second- or third-time buyers, they are unable to undertake significant refurbishments due to the absence of individual strata titles.

A strata title is a form of property ownership where individual units within a multi-level building or horizontally divided property are owned separately.

Common areas like corridors, gardens and amenities are jointly owned and maintained by all unit owners.

This type of ownership is governed by the Strata Management Act 2013 (Act 757), ensuring clear rights and responsibilities, and allowing for easier management, transactions and maintenance through a collective management body.

According to Fairview



Sonya loves the area but says without funds, the building will continue to deteriorate.

Mansion Apartment chairman Daniel Charles, who owns a unit on the sixth floor, the 45-year-old building is facing major issues like leaking sewerage and water pipes that require urgent repairs.

"But because the building does not have a strata title, we cannot form a JMB (joint management body) or MC (management corporation), which is crucial for collecting the maintenance fees and sinking funds needed to manage and maintain the property's common areas," he said.

"As a result, we don't even have enough money to paint the



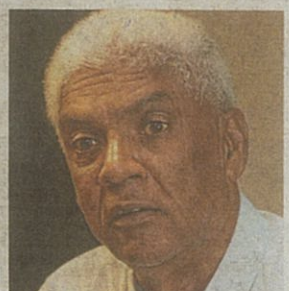
Manikavasagam hopes the building could be painted and flowering plants planted.

building, which hasn't seen a makeover in over four decades.

"Moreover, we have been trying in vain to locate the developer to enable us to get our strata title problem sorted out and establish a JMB/MC, but to no avail," he added.

Without a JMB/MC in place, Daniel said they cannot compel residents to pay the maintenance fees required to manage the building.

"As the chairman of the Residents Association, I am powerless to collect fees and cannot force anyone to contribute," he added.



Daniel says Fairview Mansion faces major issues due to the lack of a strata title.

The current maintenance fees for the flats are from RM200 to RM220 a month, depending on the unit size.

There are three sizes — 1,000sq ft, 1,500sq ft and 1,300sq ft.

"Ten owners have not been paying consistently, with one defaulter owing over RM40,000 in fees and another over RM20,000," he said, adding that he had tried his best to get them to contribute but his efforts had been futile.

"One owner has not lived here for 10 years. When I met the owner's parents at their home, I



Without a JMB or MC to manage the property, the RA of Fairview Mansion is unable to take action against owners who flout apartment living rules like cluttering the corridors.



Fairview Mansion is a six-storey building with only 30 units.

was not able to get any information," added Daniel said.

The committee, he said, needed RM6,000 a month to maintain the property, including paying for security guards, utility bills for common areas and addressing a serious sewage issue that required RM20,000 to repair.

The reserve funds had to be used, but due to the building's age, all the pipes and infrastructure were deteriorating and there was a shortfall of RM9,000.

"Due to financial constraints, the committee has decided to terminate the services of the daytime security guard as a cost-saving measure.

"Additionally, we will reclaim

parking bays that are currently rented out to defaulters," Daniel said.

Resident SD Sonya, who has lived in Fairview Mansion for a few years, loves the area but acknowledged that the building was old.

"There's only so much we can do to make it liveable, but without funds it will continue to deteriorate," she said.

Another resident, V. Manikavasagam, who is renting a unit there with his wife, said he too enjoyed living in the building.

"But it would be really nice if they could paint the building and plant some nice flowering plants to make it vibrant," he added.

S. Nathan, another owner, said he bought his unit 20 years ago as an investment but is having difficulties finding a buyer for his property.

"Not all banks are willing to provide loans for properties without strata titles.

"Such properties are generally seen as higher risk by banks, making it harder to secure financing.

"Having a strata title can significantly improve a buyer's chances of obtaining a loan, otherwise I have to look for a buyer who can pay cash," he said.

When contacted, an officer from the Kuala Lumpur Commissioner of Buildings (CoBKL), a unit under Kuala

Lumpur City Hall (DBKL)'s Property Management and Valuation Department, said Fairview Mansion would be part of a pilot project aimed at addressing issues faced by older buildings without strata titles in Kuala Lumpur.

The officer said the initiative followed an audit by the National Audit Department, which aims to get CoBs nationwide to target problematic properties built before Act 757.

"As part of this effort, CoBKL will reassess all strata properties that lack a JMB or MC and assist them in transitioning to formal management in accordance with the Act.

"Fairview Mansion is part of

the pilot project, and this initiative will involve collaboration between the RA, Seputeh MP's office, Seputeh DBKL branch office and other relevant government agencies."

The officer added that the effort was part of a long-term plan to ensure all buildings have proper management in place, potentially paving the way for future redevelopment once strata titles are secured.

He also said the Fairview Mansion RA had been advised to engage with the developer, failing which, they should carry out an insolvency check and prepare for an internal audit before calling for an extraordinary general meeting (EGM).

THE STAR

07 OCT 2024

Tarikh:

Clean toilets are everyone's responsibility – including the bosses'

DATUK Seri Wong Chun Wai, in his column titled "To be clean, all must get hands dirty" (*On the Beat, Sunday Star*, Oct 6; online at tinyurl.com/2m692n8f), rightly highlighted that Malaysian public toilets are usually a major turn-off due to their deplorable condition.

We are all frustrated by dirty public toilets, yet many of us still tolerate these poor conditions, using the facilities as quickly as possible before disappearing. This mindset, thinking public toilets are "meant to be dirty", prevents real change.

To state the obvious, our toilet maintenance culture needs a serious upgrade. But the responsibility doesn't just lie with users.

There's another group who holds the power to set things right. Wong missed an important category of people who can make a real difference: heads of organisations, facilities, and premises.

This includes principals and headmasters, department heads in government agencies (especially those that have lots of dealings with the public, such as the Immigration and Road Transport Departments), coffee shop owners, and CEOs of private entities, including government-linked companies.

These leaders have equal, if not greater, responsibility in ensuring that toilets on their premises are clean and functional.

I'm hoping this letter will inspire those in charge of public spaces to personally inspect their toilets and make the necessary improvements. Perhaps clean toilets should even be part of their KPIs (Key Performance Indicators). Leaders must lead by example if we are to see a real shift.

One more thing: Separate toilets for staff and the public should be done away with. Why should there be double standards? In schools, for example, both teachers and students should share the same facilities. It's only when the staff experience what the public does that true accountability and responsibility will take root.

Lastly, kudos to Housing and Local Government Minister Nga Kor Ming for taking the initiative to instil a clean toilet culture as we prepare for Visit Malaysia Year 2026.

All Malaysians must rally behind his efforts to ensure that we can present clean, hygienic toilets to visitors and our own citizens alike. The time for change is now.

THE STAR

07 OCT 2024

Tarikh:.....

Making enforcement a priority

Focus group to brainstorm ways to boost country's CPI ranking

PUTRAJAYA: Enforcement, public fund management and strategic communication are among the priority clusters of the focus group established to improve Malaysia's Corruption Perception Index (CPI), says Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) chief commissioner Tan Sri Azam Baki.

He said the focus group will analyse the findings of the survey and related indicators and recommend improvement proposals to the CPI Special Task Force.

He added that the other clusters are business competitiveness, investment risk and legislation, Bernama reported.

Azam said the focus group also

needs to lead engagement sessions with stakeholders under their respective clusters to raise the confidence of stakeholders regarding the government's initiative in enhancing the CPI.

"The group also needs to find ways and recommend strategies to improve Malaysia's score and position in the CPI.

"They also need to report the status and results of their respective groups' actions to the CPI Special Task Force, which will report the recommendations to the Special Cabinet Committee on National Governance," he said.

Meanwhile, Universiti Sains Malaysia Political Sociology Lecturer Professor Datuk Dr

Sivamurugan Pandian said a focus group formed based on several clusters would enable the study of sources to be carried out.

"The focus group will find ways to improve so that Malaysia's desire to be in the group of 25 countries in 2033 in the CPI will be achieved," said Sivamurugan, who is also a member of the CPI Special Task Force.

He said engagement sessions will be conducted continuously by focus groups with all stakeholders to ensure Malaysia is able to move forward by eradicating the symptoms of corruption.

"The scope that wants to be seen is not just corruption but also issues of governance, trans-

parency, integrity and democracy," he said.

The media reported that the CPI Special Task Force, which met for the first time on Thursday, agreed to establish a focus group to implement measures to improve the country's CPI.

According to MACC, the focus group is led by the Enforcement Agency Integrity Commission, the Finance Ministry and the Malaysian Productivity Corporation.

Also participating are the Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry, the Legal Affairs Division, the Prime Minister's Department and the Communications Ministry.

The CPI is a corruption perception index that has been released by Transparency International, a non-governmental organisation based in Berlin, Germany since 1995.

Malaysia's ranking in the CPI improved after it jumped from 61 in 2022 to 57 in 2023.

The government is currently establishing a CPI Special Task Force to find ways and recommend strategies to improve Malaysia's score and position in the CPI.

It is in line with the target set for Malaysia to be in the top 25 in the world within 10 years as stated in the Mid-Term Review of the 12th Malaysia Plan.

THE STAR

kh: 07 OCT 2024

Above-average rainfall expected

Phenomenon could bring about flash floods, warns MetMalaysia

By **BENJAMIN LEE**
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PETALING JAYA: Various parts of Malaysia are expected to see above average rainfall of between 20% and 40% for the next six months.

It said there is a 71% chance for La Nina to form between October and November this year, which usually brings about wetter weather conditions.

Based on MetMalaysia's weather outlook from October to March next year, the La Nina phenomenon is expected to continue until early 2025.

"In addition to the current monsoon transition phase that began on Sept 24, some areas in the country will receive weak winds from various directions that could lead to thunderstorms.

"This will likely bring about heavy rain with strong winds within a short period, especially in the evenings in most areas.

"Among the areas affected are the west coast and interior of the peninsula, west Sabah, and west and central Sarawak.

"The weather condition has the potential to cause flash floods, fallen trees and damage to unsound structures," it said.

Based on data as of Sept 30, MetMalaysia said Perlis will see a rise in rainfall from 240mm to 280mm in November and 130mm to 150mm in December.

Areas in Kedah, including Kubang Pasu, Kota Setar, Pokok Sena, Padang Terap, Pendang, Yan, Sik and Kuala Langkawi, will all see an increase in rainfall between 260mm and 310mm for November.

In December, Kuala Langkawi will see rainfall of between 90mm and 100mm while the other areas are expected to see 110mm to 130mm rainfall.

Kelantan will see significant rainfall of 680mm to 790mm in Jeli, Kuala Krai and Gua Musang in December.

Other areas, including Tumpat, Kota Baru, Bachok, Pasir Mas, Tanah Merah and Machang, will have above average rainfall of 690mm to 810mm in December.

Gong Kedak and Besut in Terengganu are expected to see the highest rainfall in December at 930mm to 1,080mm.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 07 OCT 2024

Experts: It's as vital as physical health

PETALING JAYA: Mental health conditions, often hidden or unspoken, are as important as physical health issues, experts say.

Conditions like anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia can significantly impact employees' well-being and productivity, leading to serious consequences if left untreated.

Eve Psychosocial Rehabilitation Centre general manager Rozana Anthony said employees with mental health issues may become less engaged in their work and experience a lack of motivation or morale.

"They may also take frequent days off, isolate themselves and exhibit mood swings.

"Those with mental health issues or burnout will never come out to say it because it would seem unprofessional," she said.

"But having a mental issue doesn't mean they are not functioning, you will not even know they have issues. But we need to be more aware about these issues."

Citing someone who has bipolar, Rozana said the signs and symptoms vary for each person.

She said in most cases people may not even know someone is

bipolar if they are taking the right medication.

They will only know if they stop and symptoms start emerging and go into relapse, she added.

Building trust between employers and employees is crucial in addressing mental health issues.

By creating a safe and accepting environment, employees can feel comfortable discussing their concerns and seeking appropriate support, Rozana said.

"There are a lot of companies coming up with mental health breaks, conducting training, conferences and talks but these are more on surface levels like ticking the boxes," she added.

Among other ways companies can help is to offer a year scheme with a capped amount for employees to seek help from mental health practitioners and retain a company counsellor that can be accessed by employees as and when needed.

Clinical psychologist Dr Noor Aishah Rosli said providing workplace counsellors is highly beneficial as it allows employees access to mental health support by normalising seeking help and improving overall well-being, job satisfaction and retention.

She said counsellors can also

"Those with mental health issues or burnout will never come out to say it because it would seem unprofessional."

Rozana Anthony

help monitor their progress based on emotion or behaviour.

"Some of the causes of mental health issues at the workplace such as high workload, lack of control, unclear expectations or toxic environments can cause stress or depression.

"You need a psychologist or counsellor at work setting to recognise changes in behaviour, cause of absenteeism or reasons for underperformance to spot the issues.

"Psychological assessment or screening tests to measure emo-

tion and behaviour can help address such issues and reduce them," she said.

Noor Aishah added that offices could also create quiet spaces by creating a corner or "mental health corner" with massage chairs, big balls and stress balls infused with aromatherapy to create a calming effect.

According to Noor Aishah, those with mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or bipolar disorder can function well by managing their symptoms by using certain coping strategies and medication consistently.

According to the National Health and Morbidity Survey 2023:

Non-Communicable Diseases and Healthcare Demand, about one million people aged 15 years old and above were found to be suffering from depression.

The survey also found that the prevalence of mental health problems among children had jumped from 7.9% in 2019 to 16.5% in 2023, affecting one in six children aged five to 15 in Malaysia.

Recently a study by a human resource company called Remote ranked Malaysia as the second worst country for work-life balance.

THE STAR

07 OCT 2024

Tarikh:.....

Minding their mental health

Push for improved support for employees in workplaces

By FAZLEENA AZIZ
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PETALING JAYA: Incorporating mental health into the Employment Act 1955 could greatly benefit both employees and employers as it will formalise responsibilities and protections, says the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC).

Its president Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani said this can be done through mandatory mental health leave or stress leave, similar to sick leave.

"There should also be clear guidelines on addressing workplace harassment or conditions that contribute to poor mental health.

"Access to mental health services such as counselling as part of employee benefits and on-site counsellors could help employees address personal or work-related mental health challenges in a timely manner," he said.

"With immediate support, it can potentially improve employee well-being and productivity. Training should also be provided for managers to identify and address mental health issues early on."

Mohd Effendy noted that many workers might feel overwhelmed by job demands or suffer from stress-related illnesses, but may not report these issues.

"Collecting data through surveys or feedback would help identify the extent of these concerns and allow MTUC to advocate for stronger mental health protections at the national level," he said.

"MTUC can assist employees facing mental health challenges



Mindset shift: Prof Rozanah says incorporating mental health into the Employment Act would signify a progressive move that mental health is just as important as physical health. — AZMAN GHANI/The Star

by providing legal advice, guiding them through the complaint process with authorities, and urging employers to take appropriate actions to support affected workers.

"There is a possibility that many workers are unaware that MTUC also addresses mental health issues, as they might primarily associate the union with traditional concerns like wages and benefits," he said.

Incorporating mental health into the Employment Act would signify a progressive move that mental health is just as important as physical health, said Prof Dr Rozanah Ab Rahman.

Prof Rozanah, who is the deputy dean of Universiti Putra Malaysia's School of Business and Economics, said this could include

provisions and guidelines on managing workplace stress, and protections for employees suffering from mental health conditions.

"Globally, many countries started to integrate mental health into their employment laws and this would encourage workers to seek assistance without fear of discrimination.

"The laws regarding mental health in the workplace in Malaysia are still evolving, and the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 currently laid down the duty of employers to provide a safe and healthy workplace, and this includes mental health.

"One of the objectives of the Act remains to promote an occupational environment for persons at work which is adapted to their

physiological and psychological needs.

"Although the provisions in the Act do not explicitly mention mental health, the current amendment to the Act 2022 addressed the occupational health matters arising out of any conditions of work, under the occupational health services provision of the Act," she said.

However, Prof Rozanah said that these provisions still focus primarily on the physical health of workers and do not adequately address issues like depression related to their tasks and working environment that may trigger mental health illnesses due to occupational stress.

She also said the Human Resources Ministry has issued guidelines on the prevention of stress and violence in the workplace to raise awareness among employers and workers about managing mental health issues.

Prof Rozanah said the Mental Health Act 2001 on the other hand focuses more on the treatment and care of persons with mental disorders rather than provisions related to workplace mental health.

However, one relevant policy available for workers' mental health is the National Mental Health Policy (revised in 2012), which in general provides strategies and guidelines to address issues in mental health, she pointed out.

With the Mental Health Regulations 2010, she said there was room to expand these regulations to more comprehensively cover workplace settings, integrating support structures for employees.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 07 OCT 2024..

Air busuk, sisa sampah cemari rumah penduduk

Air berwarna hitam dibimbangi mengundang risiko penyakit berjangkit

Oleh MOHD IZZATUL IZZUAN TAHIR
KUALA SELANGOR

Penduduk kampung sekitar llok yang dilanda banjir mendakwa kejadian ban pecah di lembangan Sungai Buloh menyebabkan air bertukar warna dan menghanyutkan pelbagai sisa sampah sarap. Seorang penduduk Kampung Batu 7, Mohd Roze Basir, 43, berkata keadaan itu berlaku apabila air banjir turut membawa pelbagai sampah dari tapak pembuangan haram berdekatan.

Menurutnya, keadaan itu meresahkan penduduk apabila keadaan air berbau busuk, sekali gus bimbang risiko penyakit berjangkit.

"Mulanya air memasuki rumah kelihatan jernih tetapi lama-kelamaan bertukar warna hitam dan berbau busuk.

"Air yang melimpah ke dalam rumah juga membawa sisa hanyut dan di-khuatiri memberi kesan terhadap kesihatan," katanya ketika ditemui *Sinar Harian* pada Ahad.

Mohd Roze berkata, kejadian banjir pada Jumaat lalu menyebabkan kediamannya dinaiki setinggi satu meter dan sehingga kini masih belum surut. Jelasnya, keadaan banjir berterusan berlaku disebabkan kerja baik pulih ban pecah di lembangan sungai masih belum siap sepenuhnya.



Penduduk menunjukkan keadaan ban pecah di lembangan Sungai Buloh hingga mengundang kejadian banjir.

Seorang lagi penduduk, Zharfan Effendy Mohd Tohar, 39, berkata, rata-rata penduduk tidak tahan lagi dengan bau busuk yang datang dari air yang bergenang di sekitar rumah.

Katanya, pihak berkuasa digesa menangani isu pembuang-

an sampah haram di kawasan berhampiran lembangan sungai.

"Kita bimbang air tercemar yang melimpah ke rumah penduduk boleh mengundang risiko kesihatan selain penyakit berbahaya bawaan haiwan," katanya.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 07 OCT 2024

SH
7/10

Menanti usaha naik gaji dalam Belanjawan 2025

DALAM Belanjawan 2025 yang akan dibentangkan pada 18 Oktober ini, kenaikan gaji antara fokus utama kerajaan Madani di bawah pimpinan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yang berkata dalam satu temu bual bersama *CNBC*.

Jelas beliau, kaedah ini telah dilakukan untuk penjawat awam yang gaji mereka tidak diberi perhatian sejak 12 tahun lalu.

Oleh itu, beliau mahu syarikat-syarikat swasta besar yang berpendapatan tinggi untuk melakukan perkara sama kepada pekerja mereka.

Usaha kerajaan menaikkan gaji sektor awam itu diharap akan memberikan tekanan juga kepada sektor awam.

Sudah pasti golongan pekerja di negara ini senang hati mendengar perkara tersebut, namun keputusan sekarang terletak pada tangan majikan sama ada mahu melakukannya atau tidak.

Dalam satu respons kepada akhbar ini berhubung kenyataan yang dibuat oleh Perdana Menteri, Persekutuan Majikan-Majikan Malaysia (MEF) menolak perkara tersebut.

Menurut pertubuhan itu, syarikat-syarikat besar telah memberikan bonus yang besar kepada pekerja malah menyediakan program latihan yang terbaik.

Jadi syarikat-syarikat terbabit sudah membuat pelaburan besar terhadap pekerja-pekerja mereka dan terus kekal setia dengan kemahiran terbaik.

Bagaimanapun, pada ketika ini kerajaan sedang dalam projek rintis untuk melaksanakan Dasar Gaji Progresif.

Dasar ini bertujuan untuk menyelaraskan peningkatan gaji pekerja dengan produktiviti yang lebih tinggi, memacu negara ke arah kemakmuran ekonomi yang lebih mampan.

Dengan pelaburan sebanyak RM50 juta yang disalurkan bagi pelaksanaan projek rintis DGP, termasuk pembayaran insentif kepada 1,000 majikan, langkah ini diambil untuk memperkukuhkan asas ekonomi negara.

Jadi kita memang berharap agar dasar ini akan benar-benar dapat dilaksanakan sepenuhnya kepada semua bidang pekerjaan dan memberi manfaat kepada pekerja.

Sementara itu, kita semua menunggu dengan penuh sabar pembentangan Belanjawan 2025 yang bakal diumumkan oleh Perdana Menteri pada 18 Oktober ini.

Mungkin ada langkah atau strategi baharu yang bakal diumumkan untuk menaikkan gaji rakyat supaya setimpal dengan kenaikan kos sara hidup pada masa ini.

SINAR HARIAN

07 OCT 2024

Tarikh:

8/10 7/10

3 suspek ditahan bersama dadah RM1.4 juta

JOHOR BAHRU - Polis menumpaskan satu sindiket pengedaran dadah lebih RM1.4 juta dengan tertangkapnya tiga individu dalam empat serbuan berasingan di bandar raya ini 28 September lalu.

Menurut Ketua Polis Daerah Johor Bahru Selatan, Asisten Komisioner Raub Selamat, semua suspek warga tempatan berusia 26 hingga 35 tahun ditahan bersama sejumlah dadah dalam satu operasi dilaksanakan Ibu Pejabat Polis Daerah (IPD) Johor Bahru Selatan

bermula jam 6.30 pagi hingga 4 petang pada 28 September lalu.

"Hasil ujian air kencing mendapati, dua lelaki positif dadah jenis Amphetamine manakala seorang suspek lelaki dan wanita mempunyai rekod lampau berkaitan jenayah dan dadah.

"Polis percaya ketiga-tiga suspek ditahan merupakan dalang dan juga pengedar dadah bagi tujuan pasaran di sekitar bandar raya ini," katanya ketika sidang akhbar di IPD Johor Bahru Selatan di sini pada Ahad.

Raub berkata, dalam serbuan kali ini, lebih 8.8 kilogram pelbagai jenis dadah boleh digunakan seramai 9,560 penagih berjaya dirampas.

"Turut dirampas wang tunai berjumlah RM385.

"Semua suspek direman 13 hari sehingga 11 Oktober ini bagi membantu siasatan mengikut Seksyen 39B Akta Dadah Berbahaya 1952," katanya.

Katanya, polis sedang giat mengesan ahli sindiket terbabit yang masih bebas.



Raub (tengah) menunjukkan bungkusan dadah yang dirampas.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:0.7...OCT...2024.....

31
2/10

8,500 premis diberi amaran langgar akta larangan merokok

KUALA SELANGOR - Sebanyak 8,500 premis di seluruh negara diberi amaran berikutan melanggar Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852) yang berkuat kuasa pada 1 Oktober lalu.

Menteri Kesihatan, Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad berkata, kesalahan itu dikesan menerusi 283 operasi khas dengan membabitkan seramai 4,481 penguat kuasa dari Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia (KKM) dalam operasi selama lima hari yang berakhir pada Sabtu.

Bagaimanapun katanya, tiada kompaun dikenakan terhadap premis sebaliknya ke-

menterianya lebih memberi penekanan soal kesedaran dan program berbentuk pendidikan.

"Kita tidak ambil tindakan penguatkuasaan seperti kompaun dan sebagainya, sebaliknya hanya memberi amaran berbentuk literasi, pencerahan dan penjelasan terlebih dahulu," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas meninjau Premis Bersih, Bebas Asap Negeri Selangor di Grandeur Labs, Puncak Alam di sini pada Ahad.

Dr Dzulkefly menegaskan, pihaknya tidak teragak-agak mengambil tindakan tegas sekiranya mereka masih ingkar melakukan kesalahan sama berkuat kuasa pada 1 April tahun depan.

Menurut beliau, operasi itu

juga turut mengambil tindakan penguatkuasaan terhadap 12 perokok di seluruh negara atas kesalahan merokok di tempat larangan.

"Bagi kesalahan merokok, kita mengambil tindakan tegas mengikut peraturan sedia ada," jelas beliau.

Mulai 1 Oktober 2024, Akta Kawalan Produk Merokok Demi Kesihatan Awam 2024 (Akta 852) telah mula dikuatkuasakan.

Menerusi akta itu, terdapat beberapa peruntukan berkaitan penjualan produk merokok yang berbentuk permainan dan menarik perhatian golongan kanak-kanak serta remaja yang bertujuan mengekang kebolehdapatan produk tersebut.



Dr Dzulkefly (tiga dari kiri) menampal poster larangan merokok di sebuah premis di Grandeur Labs, Puncak Alam pada Ahad.

SINAR HARIAN
07 OCT 2024
Tarikh:

Wang simpanan lebih RM400,000 lesap

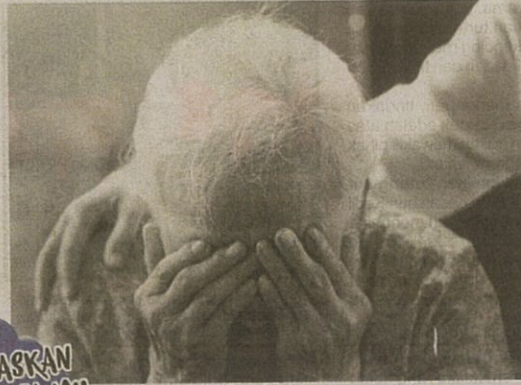
Warga emas terpedaya
pelaburan menjanjikan
keuntungan 10 peratus
di laman sosial

Oleh SHAHRIZAL AHMAD ZAINI
JOHOR BAHRU

Gara-gara tertarik dengan skim pelaburan ditawarkan di laman sosial, seorang warga emas berputih mata apabila wang simpanannya berjumlah lebih RM400,000 lesap.

Ketua Polis Daerah Johor Bahru Utara, Asisten Komisioner Balveer Singh Mahindar Singh berkata, pihaknya mengesahkan menerima laporan berhubung perkara itu daripada seorang lelaki berusia 60 tahun pada Jumaat.

Katanya, lelaki terbabit mengakui tertarik dengan satu pelaburan di Facebook hingga sanggup meninggalkan nombor telefonnya di laman berkenaan sebelum dihubungi seorang individu dikenali se-



Seorang warga emas kerugian lebih RM400,000 selepas diperdaya individu di laman sosial.
-Gambar hiasan.

bagai Vincent.

"Pelaburan tidak wujud ini menjanjikan pulangan keuntungan 10 peratus dalam tempoh tiga bulan daripada modal dilaburkan hingga membuatkan mangsa tertarik.

"Mangsa kemudian memberi butiran akaun bank miliknya bagi urusan transaksi serta deposit membuka satu akaun bagi memulakan pembelajaran dalam pelaburan saham.

"Mangsa mengaku melakukan 30

transaksi ke tujuh akaun berbeza bermula 25 Julai hingga 2 Oktober lalu dengan keseluruhan modal RM461,900," katanya.

Menurutnya, sepanjang tempoh pelaburan, mangsa hanya menerima sekali pulangan sebanyak RM55,246.

"Mangsa kemudiannya mengesyaki ditipu apabila taliannya disekat ketika cuba menuntut hasil keuntungan lain," katanya.

Katanya, kes disiasat mengikut Seksyen 420 Kanun Keseksaan.

SINAR HARIAN

07 OCT 2024

Tarikh:

84
7/10

Fokus penuaan aktif seiring Malaysia menuju status negara tua

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysia perlu mengandakan usaha dalam mempromosikan penuaan aktif sejajar dengan peralihan negara menuju status negara tua, kata Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Undang-Undang dan Reformasi Institusi), Datuk Seri Azalina Othman Said.

Beliau menekankan kepentingan persiapan menghadapi populasi yang semakin menua kerana Malaysia dijangka mempunyai lebih lima juta penduduk berusia 60 tahun ke atas dalam beberapa tahun akan datang dan negara ini mencapai status negara tua menjelang 2030 apabila 15 peratus daripada penduduknya berusia 60 tahun dan ke atas.

"Aktiviti fizikal amat penting untuk me-

nekalkan kesihatan terutamanya apabila usia semakin meningkat. Seperti yang kita sedia maklum, aktiviti fizikal adalah komponen utama untuk kekal sihat dengan membantu membina serta menguatkan otot," katanya dalam ucapan perasmian yang dirakamkan sempena Simposium Antarabangsa Kedua mengenai Penuaan Aktif (ISAA) baru-baru ini.

Turut hadir Timbalan Komisioner Jeneral Penjara (Keselamatan dan Koreksional), Datuk Abdul Aziz Abdul Razak; Pengerusi ISAA 2024, Profesor



AZALINA

Muhammad Lee Chee Pheng; Mrs Malaysia World 2024, Dr Shalini Devi Ramachandran serta atlet gusti lengan negara, Navinder Kaur.

Simposium ISAA selama dua hari yang bermula pada Jumaat kini menjadi acara tahunan menghimpunkan penceramah dari lapan negara serta penyelidik dalam bidang geriatrik dan penuaan aktif.

Azalina menegaskan bahawa simposium ini merupakan platform berharga untuk berkongsi pengetahuan saintifik serta menyeru agar lebih banyak

kajian dijalankan bagi menyokong populasi warga emas di Malaysia.

"Saya percaya simposium ini akan terus menyediakan maklumat dan pandangan penting sekali gus membantu membudayakan penuaan aktif di Malaysia," tambahnya.

Sebagai usaha advokasi dalam penuaan aktif, Azalina telah menubuhkan Pusat Penuaan Aktif pertama untuk individu berusia 60 tahun ke atas di kawasan Parlimen Pengerang yang dikenali sebagai Rakan Aktif Parlimen Pengerang.

Pusat ini antara lain menyediakan program senaman untuk meningkatkan kesihatan jantung dan sistem muskuloskeletal. - Bernama

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:0.7.....OCT...2024...

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PELANCARAN BULAN BAHASA KEBANGSAAN 2024

PM tegur elit **fobia** bahasa Melayu

Ipoh

Segelintir golongan elit di negara ini yang terlalu mengagungkan bahasa asing diingatkan supaya tidak memperkecilkan usaha pemerkasaan bahasa Melayu sebagai bahasa kebangsaan.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengakui wujud sesuatu daripada kelompok yang terhadap bahasa Inggeris yang disifatkannya sebagai aneh.

Menurutnya, biarpun beliau menyarankan rakyat menguasai bahasa Inggeris bagi mendepani zaman digital, kecerdasan buatan (AI) dan peralihan tenaga, tetapi pada masa sama ma-

"Saya mengingatkan elit yang terlalu taasub bahasa Inggeris bahawa mereka itu hidup di Malaysia. Mereka mungkin dibesarkan di London, tapi hidup di Malaysia, mesti mewakili hasrat rakyat dan aspirasi rakyat keseluruhannya"

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim



ANWAR merasmikan Majlis Pelancaran Bulan Bahasa Kebangsaan 2024 di Pusat Konvensyen Ipoh (ICC) di Ipoh. - Gambar NSTP/L MANIMARAN

hu bahasa Melayu mesti diutamakan sebagaimana termaktub dalam Perlembagaan Persekutuan.

"Ini bukan masalah rakyat Ipoh atau di kampung tak jadi masalah. Hanya masalah beberapa elit yang

tercabut daripada akar tradisi budaya, bangsa dan negara.

"Saya tak mewakili pendapat yang mahu memehkan bahasa Inggeris, tetapi saya tidak dukung sikap fobia terhadap baha-

sa sendiri dan mengagungkan bahasa lain seolah kepintaran dan kejayaan kita hanya bergantung kepada bahasa Inggeris.

"Saya mahu mengingatkan elit yang terlalu taasub bahasa Inggeris bahawa

mereka itu hidup di Malaysia. Mereka mungkin dibesarkan di London, tapi hidup di Malaysia, mesti mewakili hasrat rakyat dan aspirasi rakyat keseluruhannya," katanya yang turut ditujukan kepada

sektor swasta.

Beliau berkata demikian semasa berucap pada Majlis Pelancaran Bulan Bahasa Kebangsaan 2024 peringkat Kebangsaan di Pusat Konvensyen Ipoh di sini, semalam.

Turut hadir, Menteri Besar Perak, Datuk Seri Sarani Mohamad; Ketua Setiausaha Negara, Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar dan Ketua Pengarah Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP), Hazami Jahari.

Mengulas lanjut, Anwar berkata, sejarah perjuangan bahasa Melayu sudah melalui satu laluan berliku sehingga tercetus peristiwa Keranda 152 pada 1967.

Bantahan itu adalah simbol kematian bahasa Melayu apabila tidak digunakan sebagai bahasa pengantar dalam bidang kehakiman ketika itu.

"Kebetulan, saya anak muda hidup di tengah kancah itu dan memilih mendukung perjuangan bahasa melahirkan keresahan dan keimbangan terhadap sikap elit penguasa.

"Mereka seolah-olah kurang memberi penekanan peri pentingnya penguasaan dan pengiktirafan kedudukan bahasa Melayu dalam negara, tetapi saya harap hari itu sudah berlalu, cuma sikap sebahagian elit itu ada masalah," katanya.

Pada majlis itu, Anwar yang juga Menteri Kewangan menyampaikan Anugerah Ikon Bahasa dan Hadiah Karya Ilmiah kepada lima penerima.

HARIAN METRO
07 OCT 2024
Tarikh:

Bisnes

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Kuala Lumpur

Belanjawan 2025 dijangka memberikan cadangan subsidi bersasar secara keseluruhan, selepas pelaksanaannya untuk bahan api diesel dilaksanakan pada Jun lalu.

Penganalisis ekonomi UniKL Business School, Prof Madya Dr Aimi Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid berkata, ini berikutan pelaksanaan itu tidak menampakkan kenaikan kadar inflasi yang besar, malah ia menurun dari 2.0 peratus pada Jun dan Julai kepada 1.9 peratus pada Ogos lalu.

Katanya, selain daripada itu harga minyak diesel dan RON97 juga sudah menurun selari dengan penurunan harga minyak mentah dunia dan kelemahan nilai dolar Amerika Syarikat (AS) yang menjadi mata wang perdagangan minyak.

"Jadi, rakyat dan perniagaan sudah mempunyai pengetahuan serta melalui pengalaman pengenalan subsidi bersasar diesel, oleh itu sekiranya pelaksanaan terhadap bahan api



BELANJAWAN 2025

MUNGKIN FOKUS SUBSIDI BERSASAR

lain (RON95 dan LPG) dibuat, mereka tidak terlalu terkejut.

"Kerajaan juga mungkin akan menstrukturkan semula harga makanan yang kini masih menjadi subsidi pukal seperti gula, tepung dan lain-lain," katanya kepada Bisnes Metro.

Menurutnya, salah satu

kejayaan adalah pelarasan harga telur dan ayam mengikut harga pasaran semasa, jadi sekali lagi masyarakat sudah didedahkan dengan kejayaan pelaksanaan kawalan.

Mengulas mengenai penyeludupan dan salah guna subsidi seperti minyak masak di negara sempadan

yang masih berleluasa, Aimi Zulhazmi berkata, isu itu perlu ditangani segera.

"Isu ini memerlukan tindakan yang cepat kerana ia membabitkan aliran duit rakyat dan pembayar cukai. Bagi tahun depan, jangkaan pelaksanaan subsidi diesel juga akan diluaskan di Sabah dan Sarawak bagi

membendung aliran bahan api terbabit ke negara jiran.

"Apatah lagi, ia meliputi sempadan darat dan air yang lebih besar dan panjang dari Semenanjung dan ia menjadi satu cabaran lebih besar kepada agensi penguat kuasa kerajaan nanti," katanya.



"Kerajaan juga mungkin akan menstrukturkan semula harga makanan yang kini masih menjadi subsidi pukal seperti gula, tepung dan lain-lain"

Penganalisis ekonomi
UniKL Business School,
Prof Madya Dr Aimi
Zulhazmi Abdul Rashid

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, Pangkalan Data Utama (Padu) mesti digunakan dalam penstrukturkan semula subsidi yang lebih besar kali ini.

Beliau berkata, selepas kos besar untuk Padu, ia perlu berjaya mengklasifikasi pendapatan isi rumah bersih daripada hanya data lama yang memberikan kategori B40, M40 dan T20, tanpa mengambil kira perbelanjaan tepat, tempa tinggal dan pekerjaan.

HARIAN METRO
07 OCT 2024

Perketat penguatkuasaan urus sampah elak banjir kilat di bandar



Prof Madya di Jabatan Kejuruteraan Awam, Fakulti Kejuruteraan, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia

Oleh Dr Norhidayu Kasim
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Akhir-akhir ini negara sering dikejutkan kejadian banjir kilat di kawasan bandar berikutan fenomena hujan lebat disebabkan peralihan monsun bermula hujung September hingga November.

Sehubungan itu, pihak berkuasa dan orang awam perlu berwaspada dengan kemungkinan berlaku banjir kilat, tanah runtuh, kepala air, aliran puing dan kerosakan infrastruktur.

Fenomena hujan lebat ini bukan hanya menyebabkan air bertakung, malah boleh menyebabkan bencana alam serius terutama di kawasan berbukit, lembah sungai dan kawasan rendah.

Di kawasan bandar pula, banjir kilat sering berlaku disebabkan sistem saliran tidak mencukupi atau tersumbat. Longkang dan saluran air bandar biasanya direka untuk menampung jumlah hujan biasa.

Akan tetapi apabila hujan lebat berlaku dalam masa singkat, saliran ini tidak dapat menampung aliran air besar, menyebabkan air melimpah ke jalan raya dan kawasan rendah lalu mencetuskan kejadian banjir kilat.

Selain itu, banyak permukaan seperti jalan raya, bangunan dan tempat letak kereta di bandar diperbuat daripada bahan kalis air seperti konkrit dan asfalt. Permukaan ini tidak menyerap air hujan, sebaliknya membiarkan air mengalir terus ke dalam sistem saliran. Apabila hujan lebat, pengumpulan air dalam sistem saliran lebih cepat dan berlebihan, lalu mencetuskan banjir kilat.

Bagi mengurangkan risiko banjir kilat, langkah

persediaan dan pencegahan perlu diambil secara menyeluruh dan membabitkan pelbagai pihak. Langkah ini boleh dibahagikan kepada tindakan jangka pendek dan jangka panjang membabitkan infrastruktur, perancangan bandar, penguatkuasaan undang-undang serta kesedaran masyarakat.

Pertingkat sistem saliran di bandar

Pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) perlu mempertingkatkan sistem saliran di bandar dengan membina longkang dan parit lebih besar serta menambah saluran bawah tanah untuk mengalirkan air hujan berlebihan.

Penyelenggaraan berkala perlu dilakukan untuk membersihkan longkang tersumbat. Sistem saliran berfungsi dengan baik akan mengalirkan air hujan lebih cepat, mengurangkan risiko air terkumpul di kawasan rendah dan mengelakkan banjir kilat.

Bagi meningkatkan serapan segera air hujan, PBT boleh menggalakkan penggunaan infrastruktur hijau seperti taman serapan air, permukaan

telap dan bumbung hijau di kawasan bandar. Tumbuhan di taman serapan air dapat menyerap air hujan dan mengurangkan aliran air permukaan.

Infrastruktur hijau membantu menyerap air hujan dan mengurangkan jumlah air mengalir ke dalam sistem saliran, sekali gus mengurangkan risiko banjir kilat.

Pihak berkuasa juga perlu mengawal dan memantau projek pembinaan untuk memastikan langkah pengurusan air larian dijalankan dengan baik, termasuk memastikan sistem kawalan hakisan serta pengurusan air bersesuaian di tapak pembinaan.

Pembangunan sistem amaran awal menggunakan teknologi pemantauan cuaca seperti radar hujan dan pengimbas paras air untuk memberi amaran kepada penduduk mengenai potensi banjir kilat juga perlu diperkenalkan.

Amaran awal ini membolehkan orang ramai dan pihak berkuasa mengambil tindakan segera melindungi diri dan harta benda, seperti berpindah ke tempat lebih selamat atau memindahkan kenderaan sebelum banjir berlaku.

Aspek mungkin terlepas pandang adalah penguatkuasaan undang-undang pengurusan sampah ketat, terutama di bandar bagi mendidik orang awam tidak membuang sampah ke longkang.

Kempen kesedaran awam mengenai punca dan kesan banjir kilat, serta langkah boleh diambil masyarakat untuk mengurangkan risiko, perlu dilaksanakan bagi mengurangkan risiko banjir kilat.

Langkah persediaan dan pencegahan bersepadu antara kerajaan, PBT dan masyarakat amat penting untuk mengurangkan risiko banjir kilat. Melalui usaha bersama, risiko banjir kilat boleh diminimumkan, sekali gus melindungi nyawa dan harta benda.



BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh..... 07 OCT 2024.....

Insentif cukai semarakkan usaha pencegahan rasuah

- Di negara ini, tiada peruntukan undang-undang khusus menyebut 'bayaran rasuah tidak boleh ditolak daripada cukai' termasuk tidak disebut dalam Akta Cukai Pendapatan 1967 dan undang-undang lain berkaitan

- Pelan antirasuah organisasi menjadi dokumen dasar di peringkat organisasi bertujuan menangani permasalahan dan kelemahan tadbir urus, integriti serta rasuah



Pengarah Bahagian Pemantauan dan Penyelidikan, Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM)

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Artikel 12(4) Konvensyen Pertubuhan Bangsa-bangsa Bersatu Menentang Rasuah (UNCAC) menyatakan setiap negara anggota tidak boleh membenarkan 'potongan cukai' bagi perbelanjaan berbentuk rasuah.

Sebagai konvensyen antarabangsa di bawah Pejabat Pertubuhan Bangsa Bangsa Bersatu Mengenai Jenayah dan Dadah (UNODC), ia mewajibkan negara anggota melaksanakan langkah pencegahan rasuah secara komprehensif.

Dalam konteks perniagaan, 'potongan cukai' bermaksud perbelanjaan boleh ditolak daripada pendapatan kasar syarikat sebelum pengiraan cukai. Apabila ia dibenarkan potongan cukai, pendapatan bercukai akan berkurang dan cukai dikenakan akan lebih rendah.

Soalan timbul daripada kehendak antarabangsa ini adalah, 'adakah wujud negara menganggap rasuah sebagai perbelanjaan sah dan membenarkan potongan cukai?'

Jawapannya ada dalam artikel pendek disiarkan BBC pada 12 November 2020 berjudul *Switzerland moves to close bribery loophole* yang menyebut sehingga 1996, kira-kira separuh negara Pertubuhan Kerjasama dan Pembangunan Ekonomi (OECD) membenarkan 'potongan cukai' apabila syarikat membayar rasuah kepada pegawai awam asing.

OECD adalah pertubuhan dianggotai 38 negara ekonomi maju, termasuk Jerman, Perancis, Australia, New Zealand dan Switzerland. Ketika itu, wujud tanggapan rasuah adalah amalan biasa dan menjadi kos dalam urusan perniagaan.

Susulan itu, OECD menerima pakai ketetapan negara anggota mesti mempunyai peruntukan undang-undang tidak membenarkan potongan cukai bagi rasuah. Kini, hampir tiada lagi negara membenarkan potongan cukai bagi bayaran rasuah kepada mana-mana pihak.

Di negara ini, tiada peruntukan undang-undang khusus menyebut 'bayaran rasuah tidak boleh ditolak daripada cukai', termasuk tidak disebut dalam Akta Cukai Pendapatan 1967 dan undang-undang lain berkaitan.

Sebabnya mudah. Rasuah tidak pernah diiktiraf sebagai perbelanjaan sah dalam urusan perniagaan. Undang-undang sedia ada mengklasifikasikan rasuah sebagai jenayah berat. Oleh itu, bayaran rasuah tidak boleh ditolak dalam cukai perniagaan.

Sebarang transaksi membabitkan hasil rasuah menjadi kesalahan pengubahan wang haram di bawah Seksyen 4(1) Akta Pencegahan Pengubahan Wang Haram, Pencegahan Pembiayaan Keganasan dan Hasil Daripada Aktiviti Haram (AMLAFTAPUAA) 2001.

Hasil aktiviti rasuah boleh disita dan dilucut hak kepada kerajaan sama ada melalui pendakwaan atau tanpa pendakwaan seperti diperuntukkan di bawah Seksyen 40 dan 41 Akta Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) 2009 dan Seksyen 55 serta 56 AMLATFAPUAA 2001.

Ramai tidak sedar negara kita terkehadapan dalam aspek pencegahan rasuah melalui sistem percukaian. Buktinya, kerajaan memberikan potongan khas cukai untuk menyemarakkan agenda pemerkasaan integriti, tatakelola dan pencegahan rasuah dalam kalangan sektor korporat.

Ringkasnya, terdapat tiga tindakan boleh dilaksanakan syarikat untuk menerima potongan cukai ini. Pertama, syarikat mengeluarkan perbelanjaan ba-

“Rasuah tidak pernah diiktiraf sebagai perbelanjaan sah dalam urusan perniagaan. Undang-undang sedia ada mengklasifikasikan rasuah sebagai jenayah berat”

gi program pendidikan integriti dan antirasuah layak menuntut potongan khas cukai di bawah Seksyen 34(6)(h) Akta Cukai Pendapatan 1967, iaitu potongan cukai akan dibuat daripada pendapatan kasar perniagaan dengan amaun potongan cukai bersamaan jumlah perbelanjaan dikeluarkan.

Beberapa syarat mudah ditetapkan seperti program pendidikan mesti dijalankan dengan kerjasama SPRM, sama ada di peringkat Ibu Pejabat SPRM atau negeri, memberi manfaat kepada masyarakat umum dan bukan bermotifkan keuntungan.

Syarikat boleh memilih sama ada melaksanakan program pendidikan berbentuk seminar, forum dan *walkabout* atau program kesedaran melalui media.

Pelan antirasuah organisasi

Kedua, potongan khas cukai dibenarkan bagi perbelanjaan berkaitan pembangunan dan pelaksanaan pelan antirasuah organisasi yang turut dinyatakan dalam seksyen sama Akta Cukai Pendapatan 1967.

Pelan antirasuah organisasi menjadi dokumen dasar di peringkat organisasi bertujuan menangani permasalahan dan kelemahan tadbir urus, integriti serta rasuah. Ia boleh dibangunkan dengan kerjasama SPRM, Institut Integriti Malaysia (IIM) atau mana-mana pihak berkelayakan.

Bagi mendapat potongan cukai, pelan antirasuah organisasi dibangunkan hendaklah menyeluruh dan meliputi semua bidang kerja serta perniagaan. Ia untuk kegunaan syarikat, bukan organisasi lain. Seterusnya, ia perlu didokumenkan, sama ada secara fizikal atau digital serta diperakukan pemakaiannya.

Perbelanjaan dibenarkan potongan cukai merangkumi yuran bagi bengkel Pengurusan Risiko Rasuah (CRM) dan bengkel pembangunan pelan antirasuah, bayaran honorarium tenaga pengajar serta yuran perkhidmatan konsultan, kos pengangkutan, penginapan dan makan minum berkaitan, selain kos percetakan kali pertama buku pelan antirasuah organisasi.

Jumlah dibenarkan potongan cukai sama dengan perbelanjaan dikeluarkan, manakala nilai maksimum sehingga RM100,000.

Ketiga berkaitan akreditasi dan pensijilan, sekali gus bertepatan dengan galakan kerajaan supaya syarikat dan mana-mana organisasi memperoleh akreditasi atau pensijilan diiktiraf dunia.

Antaranya MS ISO 37001: Anti-Bribery Management System (MS ISO 37001: ABMS), iaitu piawaian antarabangsa membolehkan organisasi mewujudkan tatakelola baik, seterusnya mengesan, mencegah dan bertindak balas terhadap risiko rasuah.

Malah, perkara 2(5) Strategi Antirasuah Nasional (NACS) 2024-2029 mencadangkan pensijilan MS ISO 37001: ABMS dijadikan sebagai syarat kepada syarikat untuk membida kontrak kerajaan bernilai RM10 juta dan ke atas.

Sebagai galakan, perbelanjaan memperoleh akreditasi dan pensijilan daripada Jabatan Standard Malaysia (JSM) dan badan pensijilan lain dibenarkan potongan cukai di bawah Seksyen 34(6)(m) dan Seksyen 34(6)(ma) Akta Cukai Pendapatan 1967.

Di peringkat permulaan, iaitu sebelum memperoleh pensijilan, perbelanjaan berkaitan 'yuran asas semasa' dibenarkan potongan cukai dua kali ganda. Perbelanjaan ini merangkumi yuran permohonan, tahunan (tahun pertama sahaja), taksiran dan lain-lain yang dikenakan JSM atau badan pensijilan.

Selepas syarikat mendapat pensijilan, pada tahun berikutnya, perbelanjaan dibenarkan potongan cukai adalah perbelanjaan pengawasan tahunan, yuran pembaharuan tahunan, taksiran semula dan lain-lain. Pada tahap ini, jumlah dibenarkan potongan cukai adalah sama dengan perbelanjaan dikeluarkan.

Komitmen kerajaan menoktahkan amalan rasuah dan meningkatkan tatakelola wajar disokong semua, sekali gus merentas pendirian politik, pegangan agama, kepelbagaian bangsa dan perbezaan status sosial.

Usaha pemerkasaan integriti, tatakelola dan pencegahan rasuah pelaburan jangka panjang pasti memberi pulangan berbaloi kepada organisasi, masyarakat dan negara.

Semua artikel penulis tamu adalah pendapat peribadi, bukan pendirian rasmi BH

BERITA HARIAN
07 OCT 2024
Tarikh.....

RINGGIT



KUALA LUMPUR
(Indeks Komposit)
(-11.58) mata
1,629.97



SINGAPURA
(Straits Times)
(+5.90) mata
3,583.33



TOKYO
Nikkei
(+83.56) mata
38,635.62



NEW YORK
Dow Jones
(-184.93) mata
42,011.59



MUSKMELLOW
HASRAT KUKUH
JENAMA
DENGAN
PENSIJILAN
HALAL

»23



BLOK MADANI: WUJUD DANA KHAS BAGI B40, M40

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BARU-BARU ini, satu pengumuman dibuat oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim di mana Jabatan Wilayah Persekutuan dan Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) telah diarahkan menyediakan blok perumahan Madani untuk setiap projek baharu, bagi memastikan golongan berpen-

dapatan rendah dapat memiliki rumah.

Itu merupakan syarat penting yang ditetapkan bagi memastikan projek perumahan baharu dapat diluluskan, sekali gus memanfaatkan rakyat.

Syarat tersebut merupakan satu ketegasan kerajaan hari ini, kerana mengambil kira projek perumahan terdahulu yang tidak menekankan kepentingan rumah mampu milik untuk rakyat.

Justeru, beliau mengingatkan

supaya semua pihak tidak memandang ringan soal tata kelola, rasuah dan ketirisan kerana perkara itu mempunyai kesan kepada nasib rakyat.

Namun, sejauh manakah Blok Madani dapat direalisasikan mengikut standard yang betul?

Secara realitinya, Blok Madani bukanlah suatu inisiatif atau idea baharu kerana sebelum ini kerajaan telah memperkenalkan program atau projek pembangunan perumahan kos rendah yang perlu diwujudkan apabila

"ITU MERUPAKAN SYARAT PENTING YANG DITETAPKAN BAGI MEMASTIKAN PROJEK PERUMAHAN BAHARU DAPAT DILULUSKAN..."

sesuatu projek perumahan ingin dilaksanakan oleh pihak pema-

ju. Menerusi inisiatif ini, beberapa negeri yang mengalami kerancakan pembangunan perumahan sekitar tahun 90-an seperti Johor, Selangor dan Pulau Pinang telah berjaya memanfaatkan inisiatif ini bagi menyediakan unit-unit perumahan kepada golongan yang berpendapatan rendah dan sederhana.

Bersambung di muka 20

Blok Madani: Wujud dana khas bagi B40, M40

Dari muka 19

Pengarah Pembangunan dan Pengurusan Infrastruktur Universiti Malaysia Kelantan (UMK), Prof. Madya Sr. Dr. Shardy Abdullah berkata, kerajaan atau pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) disaran mewujudkan dana atau geran khas yang mampu memanfaatkan oleh pemaju untuk membina unit-unit perumahan bagi golongan B40 dan M40.

Katanya, pihak berwajib juga perlu mengurangkan atau menghapuskan caj pembangunan yang dikenakan kepada pemaju apabila mereka terlibat dalam membangunkan projek perumahan kepada golongan M40 dan B40 ini.

'Pengurangan atau penghapusan caj-caj pembangunan ini perlu bagi memastikan pihak

pemaju tidak memasukkan caj-caj tersebut sebagai sebahagian daripada kos pembangunan yang akhirnya akan dihitung sebagai harga pembelian oleh golongan M40 dan B40.

"Di samping itu, kerajaan perlu menjadikan inisiatif ini sebagai suatu ketetapan wajib dan bukannya sebagai suatu pilihan yang memiliki alternatif lain sebagai penyelesaian," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*.

Jelas beliau, bagi meringankan beban pemaju, kerajaan juga perlu mengkaji semula dan seterusnya mengubah prosedur atau tatacara permohonan kelulusan pembangunan perumahan kepada golongan M40 dan B40.



SHARDY
ABDULLAH



IDZWAN IZUDDIN
SHAH ISHAK

"Selain itu, sekiranya ia melibatkan kerajaan negeri, maka pemberian percuma atau penjualan tanah milik kerajaan negeri dengan harga yang lebih murah secara relatifnya kepada pemaju untuk tujuan pembangunan perumahan bagi golongan M40 dan B40 mungkin perlu dilaksanakan," katanya.

Lebih jelas, Shardy berkata, memandangkan kawasan pusat bandar sudah mengalami ketepuan pembangunan, maka dalam situasi tersebut, projek pembangunan perumahan M40 dan B40 lebih relevan untuk dilaksanakan di kawasan pinggir bandar.

"Dalam situasi tersebut, pihak kerajaan perlu menyediakan kemudahan infrastruktur

yang lebih praktikal, sebagai contoh jalan awam bukannya lebuh raya bertol," katanya.

Sementara itu, Presiden Persatuan Perundingan Hartanah Muslim Malaysia (PEHAM), Sr. Idzwan Izuddin Shah Ishak berkata, setiap pembangunan perumahan baharu perlu disediakan pembangunan Blok Madani dan nisbah unitnya perlu berkadar langsung dengan jumlah keseluruhan unit dalam pembangunan tersebut.

"Harga cadangan sama seperti Perumahan Penjawat Awam Malaysia (PPAM) di mana ia khusus untuk penjawat awam. Julat harga di antara RM200,000 hingga RM300,000 serta contoh unit keluasan 800 kaki persegi RM200,000 unit 900kp 250,000 dan unit 1,000kp RM300,000," katanya.

BLOK MADANI PERLU IKUT KESESUAIAN PEMAJU, SAIZ UNIT

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POLISI Blok Madani mampu menyelesaikan masalah perumahan untuk golongan berkecukupan terhad untuk memiliki rumah, namun ia perlu diperincikan oleh pihak pemaju dan pemegang taruh dalam industri dari segi model pelaksanaan, pembiayaan, reka bentuk, pengurusan serta penyelenggaraan.

Satu titik pertemuan yang seimbang dan menang-menang perlu diteroka supaya hasrat untuk menyediakan perumahan untuk setiap rakyat dapat dicapai.

Pengarah VERITAS Design Group, Ar Azril Amir Jaafar berpendapat, inisiatif ini perlu diteruskan namun pelaksanaannya perlu disesuaikan dengan kemampuan pemaju, saiz pembangunan dan keluasan tapak pembangunan.

"Sebagai contoh, sekiranya untuk tapak pembangunan yang luas mungkin disediakan blok khusus untuk perumahan Blok Madani.

"Bagaimanapun, untuk keluasan tapak yang terhad dan harga tanah yang tinggi, mungkin mekanisme di mana pihak pemaju menyumbangkan kepada satu tabung perumahan Madani untuk dimajukan oleh pihak kerajaan perlu difikirkan.

"Saiz unit juga perlu pelbagai supaya ia dapat disesuaikan untuk pelbagai lapisan, demografi dan keperluan penghuni," katanya ketika dihubungi *Utusan Malaysia*.

Azril yang juga arkitek bertauliah melihat dasar ini merupakan satu dasar jangka panjang yang holistik.

"Ja memerlukan satu pendekatan cara berfikir luar kotak yang berbeza namun ia perlu dilaksanakan secara konsisten, disiplin, telus dan tegas untuk memastikan objektif dicapai," katanya.

Bagi harga pula, Azril berpendapat, pemaju boleh menggunakan satu model 'sewa sumbangan' di mana pihak penghuni hanya menyewa saiz unit itu mengikut keperluan dan kemampuan penghuni pada masa itu.

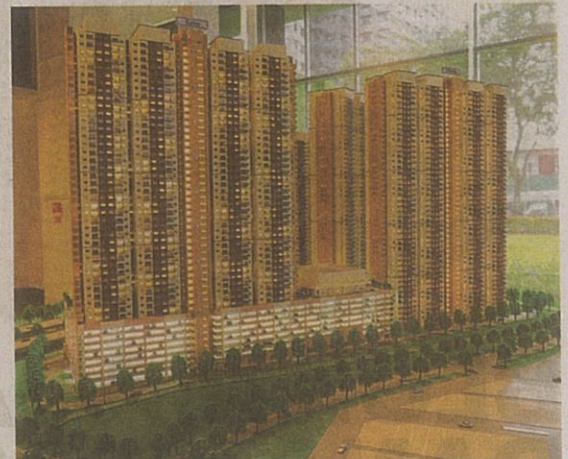
"Sekiranya keperluan beru-

"SECARA RINGKAS PERUMAHAN MADANI INI TIDAK DIMILIKI OLEH PENGHUNI, NAMUN KEKAL MILIK BADAN PEMAJU PERUMAHAN MADANI (ATAU KERAJAAN SEBAGAI PEMILIK TANAH)."

bah, penghuni boleh memohon untuk saiz unit yang lain dengan kadar sewa berbeza dan sekiranya penghuni berhasrat untuk tidak lagi menghuni perumahan Madani ini pada masa depan.

"Mereka (penghuni) boleh mengeluarkan sebahagian daripada jumlah 'sewa sumbangan' yang telah dibayar.

"Secara ringkas perumahan madani ini tidak dimiliki oleh penghuni, namun kekal milik badan pemaju perumahan madani (atau kerajaan sebagai pemilik tanah). Saya percaya model ini lebih memberi ke-



PELAKSANAAN Blok Madani dijangka dapat membantu golongan B40 dan M40 untuk memiliki rumah sendiri.

mampuan kepada sebahagian besar golongan B40 dan M40 untuk mendiami kediaman yang selesa," katanya.

Sementara itu, pekerja swasta, Fatimah Hanum Samsuri, 43, berkata, Blok Madani perlu dipercepat bagi membantu golongan M40 dan B40 membeli rumah yang selesa dengan harga mampu milik contohnya bermula RM250,000.

"Bagaimanapun, kerajaan atau pemaju perlu juga mengambil kira keluasan yang

cukup selesa untuk sebuah keluarga.

"Pelaksanaan Blok Madani dibuat untuk mengambil kira tempoh 10 hingga 20 tahun akan datang semestinya terdapat banyak perubahan dari sudut infrastruktur dan gaya hidup.

"Semoga langkah kerajaan dengan mewujudkan Blok Madani ini dapat membantu golongan berpendapatan rendah yang sedang bergelut dengan kenaikan harga rumah," katanya.

Salah guna dadah meningkat 90 peratus

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PETALING JAYA: Kes penyalahgunaan dadah di negara ini semakin serius apabila berlaku peningkatan sehingga 90 peratus bagi tujuh bulan pertama tahun ini berbanding tahun lalu.

Mengikut rekod Polis Diraja Malaysia (PDRM), sebanyak 96,054 kes penyalahgunaan dadah direkodkan di seluruh negara dalam tempoh itu pada tahun ini berbanding 50,476 kes tahun lepas.

Pengarah Jabatan Siasatan Jenayah Narkotik (JSJN) Datuk Seri Khaw Kok Chin berkata, sejak Januari hingga Julai lalu, sejumlah 95,914 tangkapan dilakukan terhadap individu dikesan positif dadah.

"Peningkatan kes dan tangkapan sehingga 90 peratus ini menunjukkan isu penyalahgunaan dadah di negara ini sangat serius," katanya kepada *Utusan Malaysia* di sini semalam.

Kok Chin berkata, jumlah kes penyeludupan dadah bagi tahun ini juga meningkat sehingga tiga peratus berbanding 2023.

"Bagi tujuh bulan pertama tahun ini, sebanyak 12,602 kes penyeludupan dadah berlaku dengan 17,177 tangkapan dibuat. Pada 2023, sejumlah 12,209 kes direkodkan dan 16,623 tangkapan dilakukan," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, trend penyeludupan dadah menggunakan warga Malaysia sebagai keldai dadah menunjukkan peningkatan ketara dan perlu dipandang serius.

Katanya, sebanyak 452 rakyat Malaysia ditahan di luar negara membabitkan 389 lelaki dan 63



KHAW KOK CHIN

Trend penyeludupan dadah menggunakan warga Malaysia sebagai keldai dadah menunjukkan peningkatan ketara dan perlu dipandang serius."

KHAW KOK CHIN

wanita sejak 2018 hingga tahun ini atas kesalahan berkenaan.

"Hampir semua tahanan keldai dadah berusia antara 21 tahun hingga 45 tahun. Trend menggunakan keldai dadah untuk menyeludup dadah ke luar negara adalah antara modus operandi utama selain penyeludupan melalui jalan darat, laut dan udara

sama ada pergerakan secara domestik atau antarabangsa," katanya.

Ujar beliau, ganja, syabu dan heroin merupakan jenis dadah paling banyak dibawa oleh keldai dadah kerana mendapat permintaan tinggi untuk pasaran di luar negara.

Katanya, tawaran upah yang lumayan menjadi antara faktor yang mempengaruhi individu-individu tersebut terpedaya menjadi keldai dadah.

"Mereka mudah terpengaruh dengan kekayaan yang dijanjikan tanpa memikirkan kesan dan akibat kepada diri sendiri sekiranya ditangkap.

"Selain itu, terdapat mangsa keldai dadah yang mudah terpengaruh dengan janji-janji manis seperti menaruh cinta dan barangan mewah ditunjukkan melalui kenalan dalam media sosial khususnya melibatkan golongan wanita dan akhirnya terpedaya dengan mengikut arahan membawa barang terlarang itu sehingga ditahan," ujarnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 07 OCT 2024



**SARFARIZMAL
MD. SAAD**

TIDAK sabar untuk menanti tarikh 18 Oktober 2024 untuk kita sama-sama menyaksikan bagaimana bentuk kerangka wang rakyat bakal dibelanjakan bagi tempoh 12 bulan berikutnya, yakni untuk sepanjang tahun 2025. Tarikh tersebut akan menyaksikan Kerajaan Perpaduan bakal membentangkan Belanjawan 2025 yang merupakan belanjawan ketiga buat Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim selaku Perdana Menteri ke-10.

Ia bukan sahaja memberi pelbagai makna di celahan kerjasama antara dua parti terbesar negara (Pakatan Harapan dan Barisan Nasional), malah Belanjawan 2025 ini suatu penanda aras melalui prestasi sebenar untuk keberhasilan agenda dan strategi ekonomi rakyat yang direncana di bawah aspirasi Malaysia Madani pimpinan Anwar Ibrahim. Pada belanjawan inilah, waktu paling ideal dan adil untuk masyarakat menilai dan memberi komentar ilmiah untuk corak kepemimpinan dan strategi ekonomi yang selama ini dicanang Anwar sebagai salah seorang figura politik dan pemikir ekonomi dikenali seantero benua ini.

Jika Belanjawan 2025 benar-benar memberi sentuhan kepada untung nasib rakyat, ini bermakna apa yang disebut-sebut oleh pasukan penyokong terhadap kredibiliti Anwar adalah suatu kebenaran yang mungkin cuba disembunyikan oleh Perdana Menteri keempat suatu ketika dahulu. Andai Belanjawan 2025 tampak hambar dan agak tempang serta 'berlubang', itu tandanya kita akan berhadapan dengan suatu lagi senario 'derita ekonomi' dalam kehidupan di negara ini.

Suka untuk kita menjentik telahan yang disuarakan oleh Perdana Menteri mengenai Belanjawan 2025 nanti yang pada gambaran beliau akan lebih memberi penekanan kepada isu-isu inflasi. Bagi Anwar, walaupun harga barangan asas seperti minyak masak, beras, petrol dan tepung di Malaysia masih berada pada angka yang rendah, namun Perdana Menteri masih optimis untuk memberi tumpuan terhadap menaikkan tahap pendapatan rakyat.

BELANJAWAN 2025 suatu penanda aras melalui prestasi sebenar untuk keberhasilan agenda dan strategi ekonomi rakyat yang direncana di bawah aspirasi Malaysia Madani pimpinan Anwar Ibrahim.



Apakah fokus utama Belanjawan 2025?

Berbeza untuk Belanjawan 2025 apabila ia pasti menjadi suatu belanjawan yang menunjukkan prestasi kerajaan bagi 'separuh masa pertama' bagi tempoh lima tahun demokrasi berparlimen Malaysia."

Jujur dan ikhlas Kerajaan Perpaduan ini boleh dilihat apabila mengakui produktiviti atau pelaburan negara ini terus mencatatkan negara yang positif, pada masa sama mengakui tahap pendapatan rakyat masih di takuk yang sama. Justeru, apa yang sedang diperjuangkan oleh Perdana Menteri sekarang ini untuk meningkatkan pendapatan rakyat adalah langkah kanan

dan semestinya paling ditunggu-tunggu.

Perkara ini mungkin ada asasnya. Lihat sendiri bagaimana Anwar Ibrahim telah mengotakan janji kerajaan untuk menaikkan gaji para penjawat awam di Malaysia. Kita semua sudah sedia maklum bahawa para penjawat awam bakal menerima kenaikan sebanyak 15 peratus, khususnya untuk pegawai Kumpulan Pelaksana dan pegawai Kumpulan Pengurusan dan Profesional, serta pelarasan gaji sebanyak tujuh peratus kepada pegawai Kumpulan Pengurusan Tertinggi. Pelaksanaan pemberian pelarasan gaji ini akan dilaksanakan secara berfasa pada 1 Disember 2024 dan pada 1 Januari 2026.

Harus kita akui bersama, berita bagus untuk para penjawat awam ini adalah selepas 12 tahun dan ia benar-benar mengejutkan ramai pihak kerana Anwar tidak hanya berborak di kedai kopi atau pentas majlis, sebaliknya beliau bertindak melalui jentera kerajaan yang ada.

Justeru, tidak terlalu keterlaluan sekiranya apa yang kerajaan lakukan kepada para penjawat awam ini akan turut diteruskan kepada kita semua melalui peningkatan pendapatan rakyat melalui dokumen Belanjawan 2025 kelak.

Seperkara lagi, Belanjawan 2025 harus digunakan sebaik mungkin bagi kita mengukuhkan kedudukan fiskal kerajaan dan memperhebatkan kedudukan nilai ringgit kita. Apatah lagi sejak kebelakangan ini nilai ringgit kita cukup membanggakan dan berlaku peningkatan kekuatan yang harus kita pertahankan dari semasa ke semasa.

Asas kepada semua ini pastikan kestabilan politik yang cukup membanggakan sehingga mampu menjangkau negara-negara serantau. Mesej 'harapan dan kestabilan' yang tersemat di dalam gabungan Kerajaan Perpaduan benar-benar diterjemahkan melalui aspirasi Malaysia Madani sehingga ia memberi rasa terhadap kehidupan masyarakat, walaupun usia kerajaan baru sahaja menjengah kira-kira dua

tahun.

Seluruh rakyat Malaysia dan para pelabur dalam serta luar negara sudah pasti akan menantikan suatu kelainan dalam Belanjawan 2025 ini. Ia cukup berbeza dengan Belanjawan 2023 dan Belanjawan 2024 yang mana bagi dua belanjawan terdahulu, ia lebih kepada proses memperkukuh semangat Kerajaan Perpaduan, disamping menunjukkan kepada rakyat betapa kerajaan yang terbentuk ini sedang memerah keringat untuk menunaikan segala janji pilihan raya.

Berbeza untuk Belanjawan 2025 apabila ia pasti menjadi suatu belanjawan yang menunjukkan prestasi kerajaan bagi 'separuh masa pertama' bagi tempoh lima tahun demokrasi berparlimen Malaysia. Seandainya belanjawan ini mampu memakmurkan rakyat, maka kerajaan yang terbentuk ini tidak boleh dipandang sebelah mata.

Seandainya Kerajaan Perpaduan akan memberi sepenuh fokus untuk meningkatkan pendapatan rakyat dalam kerangka Belanjawan 2025 ini nanti, maka tiada lagi alasan untuk mana-mana pihak memandang rendah terhadap apa yang bakal diumumkan pada tanggal 18 Oktober nanti.

SARFARIZMAL Md. Saad ialah Setiausaha Agung Pertubuhan Aktivis Belia Tanah Air (ABATA).

War against corruption

7/10
NST

Accountability is the key

MALAYSIA may have been in a good place if not for corruption. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim rightly calls Malaysia's corrosive corruption the "main cancer" of the country and people. We have reached such a critical stage that public officials are brazenly claiming to have a right to steal from government coffers just because they have contributed to the nation. How could such dirty hands wash themselves clean like this? Because they can. And they have teeming thousands cheering them on. National service has a whole new meaning now. How did we reach such a low place? The quick answer is we have not been as serious as we should have been about accountability. A blatant example of this was disclosed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission's chief graft-buster, Tan Sri Azam Baki, in May last year. The agency had sent over 500 reports on misconduct of public servants, some of them as long as 12 years ago, and yet heads of department failed to respond to the MACC, even after reminders. This simply means that for that many years no action was taken on the misconduct complained of. And what happened to the heads of department who ignored the MACC's reports? Very likely they were let off with just a slap on the wrist. This isn't

Accountability escapes public ken because transparency gets buried in the same coffin.

accountability as we know it. Like it or not, the seed of impunity gets planted thus.

Then there is this annual highlight of wastage and leakages that goes on in the public sector by the Auditor General's Report. And this is not about small money. Add it all up, and it reads billions. Who gets caught? Who gets sacked? Your

guess is as good as ours. Accountability escapes public ken because transparency gets buried in the same coffin. Take the case of the RM22 billion annual allocation to eradicate poverty. Some agencies, according to Anwar, had allocated 80 per cent of their funds for management costs. Harsh as it may sound, this is stealth by another name. The poor need the money, not the managers of the fund. Sure, there will be administrative costs, but 80 per cent? How long has this been going on? And why let it happen until the prime minister calls for a reevaluation of the programme? Again, our softly, softly approach to accountability is turning corruption corrosive.

A make-belief — that only a small number in the civil service is corrupt — isn't helping either. If this were so, then there won't be corrupt officers almost everywhere: at the federal, state and local government levels. This is the wrong way of seeing. We would go as far as saying that looking at a problem as corrosive as corruption with such a lens encourages inaction. This is why MACC reports to heads of department go unattended for 12 years. Time to face reality. True, what we see is not what we like. But it is there, ugly though it may be. And what is there is the "main cancer", as the prime minister put it. Anwar's battle cry against the corrosive disease is this: no easing off on the corrupt. The battle cry may remain just that if the civil service doesn't march to his war drum beat.

NEW STRAITS TIMES

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Boosting employees' well-being means better work

PETALING JAYA: Good mental health is directly related to work performance while an unhealthy one can lead to hindrance in basic work necessities like brain fog, fatigue and demotivation, according to employees.

M. Laksmi, who works as an executive in Subang Jaya, said mental health issues resulted not only in subpar quality work but also costs a lot as mental health treatment is an expensive affair.

"It may not be a viable option for individuals to explore should they feel the need to seek help. Companies offering mental health provisions would help ease the burden and help people take the first step towards getting help.

"This happened to me. I used the capped amount from the company and after it finished, I decided to pursue the sessions on my own but at a reduced consulting hour, so I could still seek the help needed at my own financial pace," she said in response to the importance of good mental health at the workplace.

Digital Marketing Executive April Wong, 32, from Kepong said that maintaining a healthy mindset opens up more opportunities and work possibilities.

Even when faced with a heavy workload, having the right support can make it manageable, she added.

"Just like in our studies, we put in effort and learn how to support one another. This is a positive form of stress. It helps build bonds and a sense of belonging in the workplace.

"However, external stress caused by bad managers, denial of effort, and humiliation can lead subordinates to express themselves less," she said.

On whether there should be a capped amount provided by a company as part of its medical allocation, Wong considers mental health to be under necessity.

She said some companies provide counsellors to support mental well-being, but this does not address the real problem.

"Stress can arise from family issues or toxic work politics. While employees must find a balance between work and personal life for family matters, work politics may occur due to immature colleagues or ineffective managers," she said.

"Ultimately, it's HR's responsibility to ensure a healthy work environment for all colleagues."

Communications officer Iris Mohamed 31, from Ulu Kelang said that employers should provide mental health medical provisions with a capped yearly amount.

She said there is a rising mental health problem at workplaces - which should be looked at, especially anxiety caused by pressure from employers.

"If they give such an allocation, at least we know that mental health issues are being recognised and supported by our employers," she said.

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