



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 10 MEI 2024 (JUMAAT)

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Tree care a priority in S'gor

By EDWARD RAJENDRA



MBDK Quick Response Team dealing with a tree that had fallen onto a vehicle during an April thunderstorm.

CITY councils of Subang Jaya, Shah Alam and Klang in Selangor will prune tree branches or lop off the uppermost tree canopy to avoid the possibility of branches breaking or trees toppling in a thunderstorm.

Subang Jaya mayor Datuk Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim said urban trees were important as they provided cleaner air and cooled the environment.

"Our Landscape Department is committed and proactive in terms of assessing trees and identifying tree hazards.

"Hazards could arise from dead branches on living trees, dead or dying trees and living trees that are unstable," he said.

On May 7 during an afternoon thunderstorm, a large tree fell onto 17 vehicles, killing a 47-year-old man and injuring two others along Jalan Sultan Ismail in Kuala Lumpur.

The incident also disrupted the city's Monorail services at four stations as some branches had fallen onto the elevated track.

Mohd Fauzi said branches of mature trees that could cause property damage would be trimmed or lopped off.



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Mohd Fauzi says MBSJ has attended to 8,000 trees in public areas in 2024.

Yesterday, Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) contractors were

seen pruning tree crowns that had too much foliage.

"Careful planning had been carried out last year for 2024, where site inspection, inventory preparation and tender management were made in stages.

"Faults noted in the crown, branch, trunk and roots during site inspections have been attended to."

Mohd Fauzi added that because of changes in weather patterns, the council had allocated extra funds to prune trees in the city.

"From January until May, MBSJ attended to 8,000 trees in public areas with various issues.

"We estimate pruning an additional 7,000 to ensure trees grow in a healthy way," he said.

Mohd Fauzi added that MBSJ received residents' complaints regarding dead branches, diseased trees and weak limbs that could be a safety hazard.

"We value the information given and check the condition at site, evaluate the level of risk before a report is filed for further action," he said.

Similarly, Shah Alam mayor Cheremi Tarman said proactive measures had been carried out in the city.

"Because of the intense rains and strong winds we are experiencing, Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) appointed contractors to do tree maintenance, including pruning," he



Cheremi says trees planted about a decade ago have been trimmed.

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Cheremi added that trees planted about a decade ago had been trimmed to reduce their overall density as well as stress on the branches.

"We have started an intensive drive across Shah Alam, where added focus will be given to trim trees beside main thoroughfares and residential roads.

"Our Landscape Department will identify tall trees for pruning to avoid incidents like branches falling on street electrical wires, property damage and loss of life," he said.

Klang mayor Datin Paduka Noraini Roslan agreed that it was important to prune trees during this period.

Noraini added that continuous measures were being taken to identify diseased trees or decayed branches that were likely to cause damage and had them trimmed.

"Klang Royal City Council (MBDK) has allocated RM3mil for tree management in public areas this year.

"We have an in-house team plus work is outsourced to six contractors to prune branches and remove high-risk trees," she added.

THE STAR ONLINE

TARIKH: 10 MEI 2024

By EDWARD RAJENDRA
edward@thestar.com.my

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Three city councils step up pruning efforts in wake of KL incident



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EPF members look forward to accessing Account 3 ^{9th 10/5}

THE new Employee's Provident Fund (EPF) Account 3, which goes live tomorrow, will give members below the age of 55 access to funds for short-term financial needs.

The flexible account will start with a zero balance and comprise 10% of future monthly contributions.

With the new restructured system, Account 1 will receive 75% while Account 2 will get 15% of the monthly contribution.

Currently, the monthly contributions are split into 70% for Account 1 and 30% for Account 2.

Business development manager Fatin Farhana Mazlan said the new account would be a valuable component for her family's financial support system.

Fatin said the money would help in monthly commitments, such as paying for a new water filtration system.

"Recently, we installed an air purifier. We plan to use Account 3 to pay for the appliance."

"The money will help us upgrade to a healthier lifestyle," she said.

Hotel general manager Rozaidi Md Ramli believes Account 3 can benefit individuals below the age of 55, particularly those looking to allocate money towards an emergency savings fund.

"While Account 3's base might start smaller compared to other EPF accounts, leading to a potentially lower dividend yield, its role as a dedicated emergency fund could outweigh this factor."

"It's important to recognise that Account 3 isn't designed as the primary vehicle for maximising dividend returns within the EPF."

"Instead, its focus on providing a separate avenue for emergency savings underscores its intended purpose within the broader EPF framework," he said.

For families like his, Rozaidi said incorporating Account 3 into their financial strategy could offer peace of mind by establishing a designated pool of funds specifically reserved for unforeseen expenses or emergencies.

"This segregation of funds, even with a relatively lower dividend rate, could prove invaluable during times of financial need."

"Account 3's value as a dedicated emergency fund should not be overlooked."

"For families seeking to enhance their financial resilience and preparedness, leveraging Account 3 as a strategic component of their overall financial plan could be a prudent decision," he added.

**"Account 3's value
as a dedicated
emergency fund
should not be
overlooked."**

Rozaidi Md Ramli

 THE STAR
10 MAY 2024
Tarikh:.....

> Rethink town planning

A look at the roots of the fallen tree in Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur, clearly shows why it fell: they had been trimmed to accommodate the concrete concourse above them. It was a disaster waiting to happen. Landscaping shouldn't be left to project owners, who may well not have the expertise. This is actually part of a much larger problem where developers are left to build roads, sewerage systems, and power and water supply lines themselves. This often results in "cost-efficient" solutions with only minimum safety standards met. This tragedy must prompt serious rethinking of how town planning is carried out and what responsibilities should be left to the local authorities. The life lost must not be in vain. — Maniam

THE STAR

Tarikh: 10 MAY 2024

Focus on reforms, not terms

Great need to address systemic discrimination, denial of rights for the disabled

WE AS members of the *orang kurang upaya* (OKU) or disabled community, along with advocates, activists, care partners and allies, are profoundly disappointed by remarks made by Senator Isaiah Jacob published in a news portal on April 22.

Our collective voice reflects a wide spectrum of experiences within the disabled community, encompassing various sectors such as law, human rights, media, education and health-care.

This letter articulates our collective opposition to the issues and views expressed by Isaiah in his formal capacity as a Dewan Negara senator mandated to represent the community.

As members of the disabled community, we maintain that terms such as "disabled", "persons with disabilities" or OKU are widely accepted and agreed upon within our community.

Despite efforts to engage Isaiah on the matter, our concerns have not been adequately addressed.

This includes a meeting on June 26 last year, when a letter advocating for respectful, appropriate disability language was presented, with over 100 signatories from more than 70 organisations.

Isaiah's continued endorsement of the term "specially



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abled" disregards internationally accepted terminology endorsed by the United Nations (UN) and enshrined in Malaysia's Persons with Disabilities Act 2008.

The promotion of euphemistic language undermines the struggles and challenges faced by the disabled community, diverting attention from critical issues that demand urgent attention.

Advocating for a change in terminology from "disabled" to "specially abled" or "differently abled" as suggested by Isaiah may subject Malaysia to scrutiny from the international community and the UN.

Malaysia ratified the UN Convention of Persons with



Efforts to help the disabled must include enhancing infrastructure and accessibility such as installing suitable wheelchair ramps. — Filepic

Disabilities in 2010 and any delay in addressing terminology issues could hinder progress in improving the situation of the disabled.

If Isaiah wishes to focus on language, a practical first step would be to eliminate terms like *cacat* or *kecacatan* from government documents and replace them with more respectful terms such as "dis-

abled" or *kurang upaya*.

Currently, government documents still use the "Borang C (Cacat)".

Isaiah should prioritise meaningful action with advocacy efforts focusing on substantive reforms, rather than terminology matters.

Disabled advocacy requires proactive measures to address systemic discrimination and

denial of rights, rather than symbolic actions of less significance.

As members of the disabled community, we call for leadership that is empathetic, inclusive and decisive.

We urge Isaiah to engage meaningfully with our community and prioritise substantive actions to address our needs and challenges.

This includes efforts to strengthen laws and policies, enhance accessibility and infrastructure, promote employment and economic participation, improve healthcare access and well-being, and uphold rights and inclusion for all members of the disabled community.

We emphasise the importance of genuine engagement and collaboration between Isaiah and the disabled community to address our concerns and advance our rights and interests.

We call on him to listen to our voices, understand our experiences and take concrete actions to support the disabled community.

DATUK DR RAS ADIBA RADZI
President
Persatuan OKU Sentral

This letter was signed by 197 signatories

THE STAR

10 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

Wee: Avoid burdening the people

Fuel subsidy revamp must be done cautiously in view of high cost of living

By ALLISON LAI
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PETALING JAYA: Plans to restructure the fuel subsidy by next month must be done carefully to avoid burdening the people with price hikes, says MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong.

He said the restructuring should factor in all possible situations that the people might face, especially in view of the high cost of living.

This was to ensure a comprehensive plan and to avoid abuse, he said.

"I am worried about another round of price hikes when the subsidy is lifted.

"This will be the biggest challenge as more people will not be able to afford things.

"The government should be careful with this," said Dr Wee, who was a guest at yesterday's radio talk show, *The Pulse of the Malaysian Chinese Economy* by Chinese radio station 988.

He said fuel subsidy amounted to RM30bil of last year's RM88bil total subsidy given out by the government.

With the subsidy, he said that fuel price here is RM1.20 per litre lower compared to global prices.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli affirmed last month that Malaysia would cut fuel subsidies this year to reduce the national fiscal deficit.

There had been much talk that this would take place in the second half of the year but Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said on Sunday that the Cabinet had not finalised its decision.

Dr Wee said the government might source for funds by slashing subsidies or from the Sales and Service Tax (SST) collection, especially since it had offered civil servants a pay rise of more than 13% starting December, which would require an allocation of over RM10bil.

He said the salary revision would be beneficial for civil servants but the government would need to fund these salaries.

"When the SST rate rose from 6% to 8%, only RM3bil was collected while prices have surged.

"If we opt not to draw from the SST (collection), we will have to rely on subsidies.

"From subsidising RM1.20, we now need to allocate RM10bil. Hence (the government may)



Moving prudently: Dr Wee speaking to 988 at the radio station in Menara Star, Petaling Jaya. Among the topics discussed, the MCA president said plans to restructure the fuel subsidy must be done carefully to avoid burdening the people with price hikes. — YAP CHEE HONG/The Star

deduct one-third of the RM1.20 subsidy.

"So imagine if 40sen is removed from the subsidy. The immediate consequence will be a price increase across the board, leading to a significant challenge for the people," he said.

Dr Wee said there was much public approval when former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced a 25% to 35% salary adjustment for civil servants in May 2007.

However, when he subsequently raised fuel prices, public sentiment shifted negatively towards the government, Dr Wee recalled.

As such, he said it is essential for the government to handle the subsidy allocation system cautiously.

He also called for the restructured system not to leave out those who meet the criteria for subsidies.

"For example, small business operators in small towns or Chinese new villages usually have lorries for transporting goods.

"If these businesses are unable to access subsidised diesel, it is likely they will pass on the



increased cost to consumers by charging higher prices for the goods," he said.

Dr Wee also raised concerns about the use of identification documents such as MyKad or car registration to verify motorists' eligibility for fuel subsidy.

"What happens when the son or daughter pumps petrol for his or her father's car?" he asked.

Also, he said that cars are often obtained through hire purchase loans.

"So, is it the owner or the driver of the car that qualifies for subsidy?"

These complexities, he said, highlight the need for thorough planning and finding suitable solutions.

He said the information collected under the Central Database Hub system must ensure that this wealth of data is used effectively to

navigate the challenges presented by subsidy management.

Dr Wee said that the restructuring of subsidies should not only be aimed at increasing revenue but also to ease the people's financial stress.

"I hope the government will find a proper system.

"It is essential to engage in collaborative brainstorming to avoid another round of price increases that would further burden the people," he said.

Amid challenges like taxes, the economic downturn and a weak ringgit, Dr Wee emphasised the need for the government to enhance efforts in deepening economic development.

"Government projects should start rolling in high gear to stimulate the economy and encourage consumption, as this multiplier effect can drive overall domestic economic growth," he said.

With a worrying domestic demand, particularly in the retail sector, he said Malaysia needs to attract more foreign investments and tourists, forge partnerships with countries and capitalise on

their potential.

Dr Wee suggested that Malaysia hold discussions with China, seeking permanent visa exemption between both nations.

Chinese nationals want to seek respite from the harsh winter or summer, he said, dispelling talk that they are eyeing Malaysian citizenship.

He said the Malaysia My Second Home programme should attract international residents, citing that the requirement for them to remain in the country for up to 90 days is a discouraging factor as the individual might have business to attend to back home.

The radio show, which was live-streamed on 988's Facebook page, received feedback from listeners like Je Hao who commented that there was a "lack of careful planning" on the subsidies.

Chen Wen Qin cautioned that unclear execution of targeted fuel subsidy could lead to abuse.

As for Joan Low, she said the Malaysian economic situation is uncertain but acknowledged the government's efforts in fighting corruption.

DPM: Ensure water sustainability to avoid crises in future

By ZAKIAH KOYA
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KUALA LUMPUR: The country has the moral duty to tackle its water challenges head-on or it will end up with a major water crisis in the future, says Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof.

Fadillah, who is also Energy Transition and Water Transformation Minister, said that although Malaysia boasts one of the most advanced water infrastructures in the region, water transformation should be continuous to ensure its sustainability for future generations.

"A pressing challenge lies in ensuring a continuous and adequate water supply, especially in drought-stricken regions, where existing water resources face heightened pressure. This poses significant reliability challenges for domestic, agricultural and industrial needs.

"Simultaneously, intense rainfall and flooding events pose risks to water infrastructure, disrupting supply chains and compromising water quality," said Fadillah at the Future Leaders of Water Sustainability Symposium (FLOW) 2024 here yesterday.

He said there is an urgent need for climate-resilient water management strategies and guarding water against pollution



Keep it flowing:

Fadillah symbolically pouring water onto a plant to officiate FLOW 2024 in Kuala Lumpur. Flanking him are UN Global Compact Network Malaysia & Brunei executive director Faroze Nadar (right) and Karima. — Bernama

due to industrial discharge and agricultural runoff.

"Water security transcends mere access to clean water; it embodies a commitment to social justice and ecological integrity.

"Similarly, Malaysia also faces significant challenges regarding drinking water quality and availability, highlighted by past water disruption incidents due to pollution.

"These challenges are not just statistics but represent individuals and communities directly impacted by water scarcity and pollution. Therefore, it is imperative to recognise the voices of those affected and

address their needs effectively," said Fadillah, pointing out that the financial toll of water scarcity looms large.

The Deputy Prime Minister also launched the Forward Faster for Water Resilience initiative in Malaysia with Duopharma Biotech Bhd being the first local signatory.

Duopharma Corporate chief executive officer Anas Alam Faizli shared how the company has been conserving and treating water through simple acts such as doing away with dual urinal flushing.

The Forward Faster initiative aims to increase accountability and transparency

by calling for companies to publicly declare their commitments and highlight the actions they will undertake to meet the targets.

Companies committed to the targets will be required to report on progress annually to the UN Global Compact.

At the same event, the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore, Karima El Korri said that water availability does not mean that the water is well managed.

"There are 1.1 billion people worldwide still lacking access to clean water and this is intimately linked to poverty, health and nutrition issues. Global data show that girls and women spend 200 million hours every day to collect water," she said.

Bank Negara Sustainability Unit deputy director Suraya Sani pointed out that there are nature-related financial risks should there be compromises in water sustainability.

She said ecosystems play a vital role in affecting the depreciation of natural assets, which may contribute to financial losses among banks.

The one-day symposium was also attended by Subang Jaya state assemblyman Michelle Ng Mei Sze and National Water Services Commission chairman Charles Santiago.

THE STAR
11 0 MAY 2024

Tarikh:.....

It is a mind-boggling number, but have we become so desensitised to corruption that even when it is revealed that Malaysia lost RM277bil to graft, barely an eyebrow is raised?

This massive leakage over a five-year period, which was revealed by the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Agency (MACC), could have been used for various initiatives that would have benefited the public.

To put this in perspective, the RM277bil is equivalent to building almost 3,000 schools, over 9,000 government clinics, more than nine million low-cost housing apartments, nearly 300 hospitals and close to three million units of public housing!

Even today, rural schools – especially in Sabah and Sarawak – do not have simple things like electricity and resources for education. So, where is the anger and indignation at the numerous corruption cases the MACC is bringing to trial? Why are our champions of morality silent about these?

The results of the Kuala Kubu Bharu by-election will be known tomorrow but it will be interesting to know if any of the candidates or for that matter, either of the political parties contesting, used a corruption-free campaign platform before the polls.

I doubt it, and it should not be a surprise. A zero-corruption campaign ticket would not exactly win you the votes because Malaysians have become blasé about politicians spouting doublespeak

Never-ending battle against graft

Malaysia is a long way off from becoming a society with zero-tolerance for corruption or abuse of power.

about fighting corruption when these same politicians and many of their ilk have been investigated for corruption.

Corruption is a cancer that has permeated every level of Malaysian society. Our nation ranks 57 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index (2023 score). This is a small improvement on our 61st place in 2022, but a far cry from our best position of 23 in 1995.

It is still a long road for Malaysia in its fight against this systemic corruption in various levels of society, from the civil service to the private sector. This pestilence has seeped through every layer of society, not only at the political class. And if there isn't a collective will on our part to fight this, the country as a whole will continue to suffer.

There are a number of high-profile court cases coming up and once again, all eyes will be on the judiciary. But beyond that, the ordinary Malaysian would also

BRIAN MARTIN
@KlangRed

On your side

like to see the strengthening of other institutions.

It is no secret, given the number of times the MACC has acted, that our uniformed authorities – the police, Customs, Immigration and Road Transport Department – are particularly prone to corruption.

The temptation to accept bribes is rife among our enforcement authorities and only a zero tolerance of corruption will change the way we operate.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim launched the National Anti-Corruption Strategy (NACS) 2024-2028 on Tuesday.

This new plan emphasises on the effectiveness of anti-graft efforts to improve governance and integrity in public service administration.

The five key strategies outlined in the NACS are education, public accountability, voice, enforcement and incentives, with 60 sub-strategies to be implemented over five years.

It encompasses politicians, public administration, government procurement, law enforcement, legal and judicial institutions, the private sector and the public.

But even the Prime Minister acknowledged that it would be pointless to have numerous anti-corruption plans and strategies if they were not backed by strong political will and direction.

"The scourge of corruption cannot be taken lightly. To combat this, you need a powerful, dedicated and courageous body, strong legislation and laws.

"More profoundly, you need clear political will and direction," he said.

So, perhaps it is time corruption is addressed as a subject in primary and secondary schools. After all, they are future taxpayers. The next generation are the ones that should be saved from the greed of those in power.

As of now, though, the effectiveness of measures to combat corruption should be called into question. The NACS aims of enhancing integrity and transparency will just be rhetoric if there are no concrete and tangible results.

Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M) president Dr Muhammad Mohan says that greater accountability is needed to prevent the nation from suffering huge losses to corruption.

He believes that there should be greater accountability on the part of government officers who are responsible for losses suffered by the government due to poor administration.

"Freezing their salary or promotion, including transferring them out, may not help.

"Officers responsible for the losses should be held accountable and charged if corruption is involved," he said.

The graft watchdog's suggestion may not go down well with the civil service, but it is these types of tougher measures that will make people think twice about indulging in corrupt practices.

The problems are deep-seated and we are a long way off from becoming a society with zero-tolerance for corruption or abuse of power.

THE STAR
10 MAY 2024
Tarikh:.....

Loss of public funds cannot continue

IDEAS (Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs) commends the Malaysian government's proactive approach in strengthening anti-corruption measures through the recently launched National Anti-Corruption Strategies 2024-2028 (NACS). This initiative represents a significant stride forward in combating corruption and promoting transparency as part of the nation's reform agenda.

Achieving the ambitious targets set by the NACS demands strong bipartisan political will, tremendous effort, support of the civil service, and a focused approach. It is imperative for political parties across the spectrum to set aside differences and collaborate wholeheartedly in the fight against corruption. To achieve these goals, distractions on issues unrelated to anti-corruption efforts, such as those concerning race, religion and royalty (the 3Rs), must be minimised.

More importantly, rebuilding trust in institutions is imperative to narrow the trust deficit between citizens and government. Enacting a Political Financing Act (PFA), which is included in the NACS, is one such priority. While steps have been taken to kick-start the process, this needs serious political will from the very top. It cannot be stressed enough how important it is to pass the PFA before the next election.

It is unfortunate, however, that separating the role of the



Photo: Filepic

Attorney General and Public Prosecutor is not included in the NACS, considering how the conflict of interest between the two is one of the main hindrances to fighting corruption. While Ideas understands that the government is currently pursuing a study into this matter, it is still unclear whether previously set target timelines will be adhered to, since it is not contained within this important document.

According to Ideas CEO Dr Tricia Yeoh, it is crucial that, in the next four years, all stakeholders prioritise the NACS. To do this effectively, we cannot be distracted by racial and religious issues, and all efforts must go into rebuilding trust in our institutions.

The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission found that Malaysia

suffered losses over a period of five years, between 2018 and 2023, totalling RM277bil due to corruption. This abominable trend and loss of public funds cannot continue if we are serious about building Malaysia as an attractive investment destination, with strong fundamentals and robust mechanisms in place to combat corruption and mismanagement.

Ultimately, it is the Malaysian public that loses the most when corrupt practices go unpunished.

IDEAS

Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs

Ideas is a nonprofit research institute dedicated to promoting solutions to public policy challenges.

THE STAR
11 0 MAY 2024
Tarikh:.....

Gaji minimum RM2,102 rugikan majikan?

Sinar
10/5

GENAP dua tahun pekerja di Malaysia menikmati penetapan kadar gaji minimum pada nilai RM1,500 sebulan sejak 1 Mei 2022.

Bagaimanapun terbaharu, Tabung Kanak-Kanak Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (UNICEF) mencadangkan kerajaan supaya menetapkan kadar gaji minimum pada RM2,102 sebulan.

Memang amat menarik bunyinya dan jika ia berjaya dilaksanakan, pasti akan dapat meringankan beban rakyat negara ini secara lebih signifikan.

Pada peringkat ini, kajian tuntas wajar dilakukan kerajaan kerana sebelum ini, Bank Negara Malaysia pernah mencadangkan gaji minimum yang lebih tinggi iaitu RM2,700 sebulan.

Namun persoalannya, apakah semua pihak mampu mengikut cadangan tersebut? Persoalan lain yang perlu juga difikirkan ialah sekiranya penetapan gaji ini dibuat, adakah ia bakal menguntungkan sebelah pihak sahaja iaitu golongan pekerja, atau majikan turut mendapat manfaat?

Memang tidak dapat dinafikan, penduduk metropolitan seperti Kuala Lumpur dan bandar utama lain berdepan dengan cabaran peningkatan kos sara hidup yang sangat tinggi sehingga amat membebankan, namun bagaimana pula dengan bebanan yang ditanggung oleh majikan?

Semua pihak boleh mencadangkan demi kebaikan rakyat dan negara, akan tetapi perlu seimbang juga dengan untung rugi bisnes majikan.

Dalam perkembangan mutakhir ini, bukan mudah untuk sesebuah entiti perniagaan mengekalkan kelangsungan, namun itu tidak bermakna hak pekerja boleh dinafikan sewenangnya.

Sebagai sebuah organisasi, mereka harus melihat lebih jauh iaitu bukan hanya untuk jangka pendek, tetapi juga jangka panjang.

Realiti yang berlaku hari ini adalah kenaikan harga barang keperluan yang amat mendadak, inilah perkara asas yang mesti diselesaikan oleh kerajaan sebelum bercakap soal kenaikan gaji minimum.

Situasi yang terjadi sekarang adalah ibarat teori domino yang mempunyai kesan berantai, pendapatan naik hari ini tetapi harga barang juga akan meningkat sama.

Dilema di pihak majikan pula, bagaimana mereka hendak menaikkan gaji pekerja jika pendapatan syarikat tetap sama atau lebih teruk, menurun.

Inilah hakikat yang perlu dilalui pekerja dan ditangani kerajaan. Bantu salah, tak bantu salah. Carilah jalan penyelesaian secara berhemah, ibarat menarik rambut dalam tepung, rambut tidak putus, tepung tidak berselerak.

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 11 0 MAY 2024

Pastikan minyak subsidi hanya untuk kita

Sinar
10/5



ANALISIS
MUKA 16

SHAHRIZAL AHMAD ZAINI

Kejadian warga asing mengisi minyak petrol atau diesel bersubsidi ke kenderaan mereka yang jelas memaparkan nombor pendaftaran kenderaan negara jiran, ternyata terus berlaku di negara ini.

Jika sebelum ini kegiatan seperti itu dikesan di negeri atau kawasan yang terletak berhampiran dengan sempadan negara jiran, namun ketika ini sudah ada kes yang dilaporkan di sekitar Lembah Klang.

Timbul persoalan, mengapa agaknya perkara seumpama ini masih terus berlaku sedangkan pelbagai langkah bertujuan membendung perkara tersebut telah dilaksanakan oleh kerajaan?

Antaranya, mengenakan hukuman denda yang berat kepada pengusaha stesen minyak yang didapati bersubahat dengan kumpulan penyangak tersebut dengan membenarkan mereka mengisi minyak petrol atau diesel bersubsidi.

Baru-baru ini seorang pengusaha stesen minyak di hentian rehat dan rawat (R&R) didenda RM30,000 oleh Mahkamah Sesyen Selayang selepas didapati bersalah menjual bahan api subsidi kepada warga asing.

Dia didapati menjual petrol RON95 sebanyak 48.78 liter kepada sebuah kenderaan bernombor pendaftaran Thailand. Kesalahan itu boleh didenda sehingga RM1 juta atau dipenjarakan selama tiga tahun. Terdahulu tular satu rakaman di

media sosial yang memaparkan dua individu mengisi petrol bersubsidi sekali gus mencetuskan kemarahan netizen. Mereka mempertikaikan tindakan warga asing tersebut yang semakin berani melanggar peraturan.

Selain itu, 'penyangak' warga asing ini juga semakin berani mencabar pihak berkuasa malah mengugut para pengusaha stesen minyak agar terus menjual bahan api bersubsidi kepada mereka, tidak kira berapa kali mereka isi dalam sehari. Perkara ini didedahkan Menteri Perdagangan Dalam Negeri dan Kos Sara Hidup, Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali baru-baru ini.

Ugutan

Antara ugutan mereka yang dipercayai sindiket adalah untuk membakar stesen minyak dan merosakkan kemudahan yang ada di situ.

Sudahlah menerima ugutan, ada juga pengusaha stesen minyak yang didatangi konco-konco penyangak tersebut bagi memberikan amaran berhubung 'urusan' jual beli yang perlu diikuti oleh mereka.

Perkara sedemikian sudah pasti membuatkan pengusaha terbabit tidak berani melaporkan kejadian kepada pihak berkuasa kerana bimbang akan keselamatan diri, keluarga, pekerja dan juga premis mereka daripada diapa-apakan.

Jika sudah sampai ke tahap ini, ternyata perkara ini tidak boleh dibiarkan lagi kerana lama-kelamaan ia pasti merebak ke tempat-tempat lain di seluruh tanah air dan seterusnya menyebabkan bekalan bahan api bersubsidi yang sepatutnya dinikmati rakyat negara ini sahaja semakin berkurangan.

Oleh itu, sudah tiba masa untuk pihak berkuasa melaksanakan tindakan lebih tegas dan lebih agre-

“Antara ugutan mereka yang dipercayai sindiket adalah untuk membakar stesen minyak dan merosakkan kemudahan yang ada di situ jika pengusaha enggan menjual minyak kepada mereka.”

sif bagi memastikan insiden sedemikian tidak berlaku pada masa akan datang.

Pada masa sama, orang ramai juga boleh memainkan peranan dengan menjadi mata dan telinga pihak berkuasa jika melihat ada lagi warga asing yang mengisi minyak bersubsidi di stesen minyak atau mengesyaki terdapat aktiviti penyeludupan petrol dan diesel sama ada oleh warga asing atau orang tempatan sendiri.

Justeru, langkah kerajaan untuk melaksanakan subsidi bersasar pada tahun antara lain bertujuan membantu rakyat di samping membendung penyeludupan serta ketirisan barangan bersubsidi harus dialu-alukan.

Selain itu, kawalan keselamatan di stesen-stesen minyak berhampiran sempadan negara wajar diperketat bagi memastikan tidak berlaku lagi insiden kenderaan dengan nombor pendaftaran asing mengisi bahan api bersubsidi.

Pihak syarikat atau stesen minyak itu sendiri perlulah lebih berani kerana mereka boleh dikatakan berada di barisan paling hadapan dalam menghalang penyangak warga asing ini daripada mencuri bahan api bersubsidi milik kita.

**Shahrizal Ahmad Zaini ialah wartawan Sinar Harian Johor*

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 11.0 MAY 2024

Premis makanan jijik, meloyakan diarah tutup

(DBKL)

Kuala Lumpur: Keadaan sebuah premis makanan dalam keadaan menjijikkan dan meloyakan diarah tutup selepas diperiksa dalam Operasi Bersepadu Bersih di sekitar ibu negara di sini, kelmarin.

Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) berkata, sebanyak 88 premis diperiksa di Mid Valley Megamall, Jalan Hujan Emas, Jalan Hujan Rahmat, Jalan Metro Pudu, Mitshui Shopping Park Lalaport dan Sunway Putra Mall.

"Berdasarkan hasil pemeriksaan itu, sebuah premis dikenakan tindakan

arahan penutupan mengikut Seksyen (11) Akta Makanan 1983.

"Sebanyak 69 kompaun dikeluarkan atas pelbagai kesalahan mengikut Undang-Undang Kecil Pelesenan Petempatan Makanan Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur 2016, Undang-undang Kecil Pengendali Makanan 1979 dan Akta Kerajaan Tempatan 1976," katanya dalam satu kenyataan, semalam.

Menurut DBKL, pelbagai kesalahan yang dikesan membabitkan aspek kebersihan, petugas serta persekitaran premis.

HARIAN METRO

Tarikh: 10 MAY 2024

Putrajaya: Kementerian Pengangkutan (MOT) mengarahkan Prasarana Malaysia Bhd (Prasarana) supaya menjalankan kajian mendalam membabitkan kawasan berisiko berlakunya insiden pokok tumbang di sepanjang laluan rel syarikat itu.

Menterinya, Anthony Loke berkata, Prasarana juga perlu mengadakan perbincangan bersama Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) atau pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) berkaitan untuk mengenal pasti lokasi terbabit.

"Kerja-kerja penyelenggaraan ini sebenarnya terletak di bawah bidang kuasa PBT dan terdapat juga

Prasarana diarah kenal pasti kawasan berisiko

kawasan-kawasan persendirian, jadi kita tidak boleh sesuka hati masuk ke kawasan itu.

"Namun, sebagai operator kita perlu lebih proaktif dan saya minta Prasarana supaya membuat satu siasatan (kajian) yang lebih terperinci dengan melihat kawasan-kawasan yang berisiko ini," katanya kepada media selepas Majlis Erat Kasih Madani dan Perhimpunan Bulanan MOT di sini, semalam.

Loke berkata, monorel dan LRT adalah sistem pe-

ngangkutan yang lebih berisiko untuk terdedah kepada insiden yang tidak diingini seperti pokok tumbang dan sebagainya, berikutan landasannya yang berada di tengah pusat bandar.

"Sebab kita punya sistem rel ini kebanyakannya rel bertingkat (*above ground*), kalau di bawah tanah itu tiada risiko begini, tapi monorel ini landasannya di tengah-tengah bandar raya. Memang penyelenggaraan pokok itu antara agenda utama," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 11.0 MAY 2024

Wajar kadar cukai pintu Selangor naik ^{metro} ^{(10/5} ^(MPKJ)

Kuala Lumpur: Kenaikan se-kurang-kurangnya 20 peratus kadar cukai pintu di setengah lokasi di Selangor mulai 2025, dilihat wajar selepas ada kawasan pentadbiran pihak berkuasa tempatan (PBT) hanya membuat semakan terakhir hampir empat dekad lalu.

Pengarah Unit Perancangan Korporat dan Perhubungan Awam Majlis Perbandaran Kajang (MPKJ), Kamarul Izlan Sulaiman berkata, kali terakhir pihaknya membuat semakan kadar Senarai Nilai Baru pada 1985 se-

belum mewartakan semakan baharu pada 3 Mac 2022.

"MPKJ menimbang semula segala bantahan, pandangan, cadangan dan maklum balas daripada pemilik harta dan mengemaskini Senarai Nilai dengan memberikan pengurangan 10 hingga 20 peratus ke atas Nilai Tahunan.

"Keputusan Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri Selangor ke 29/2023 bertarikh 8 November 2023 memutuskan bersetuju mengesahkan Senarai Nilai Baru MPKJ yang dikuatkuasakan 1 Januari 2024," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 10 MAY 2024

JANGAN KLIK-KLIK KELUAR AKAUN 3!

Pencarum Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) perlu mempunyai tahap disiplin yang tinggi agar tidak sewenang-wenangnya membuat pengeluaran caruman Akaun 3 atau Akaun Fleksibel.

Dalam membuat saranan ini, Fellow Kanan merangkap Pengarah Pusat Kajian Ekonomi dan Kemasyarakatan, Institut Kefahaman Islam Malaysia (IKIM) Dr Muhammad Hisyam Mohamad menekankan, akaun berkenaan perlu digunakan untuk keperluan penting dan dalam masa yang sama, pencarum wajar melengkapkan diri dengan ilmu pengurusan kewangan peribadi.

Menurut beliau, walaupun KWSP membenarkan pencarum, pada bila-bila masa membuat pengeluaran Akaun 3 berkuatkuasa mulai 11 Mei ini, hakikatnya langkah itu bukanlah matlamat asal dana persaraan itu.

KWSP, katanya, secara umum adalah akaun simpanan untuk persaraan dan sememangnya sebelum ini pencarum dibenarkan membuat pengeluaran dari Akaun 2 bagi tujuan seperti pendidikan, kesihatan atau perumahan.

"Kali ini Akaun 3 yang diwujudkan bertujuan memenuhi keperluan asas dan mereka yang berhadapan isu 'kecemasan'. Langkah ini sedikit sebanyak dapat membantu anggota masyarakat yang sedang berhadapan isu kos sara hidup dan pada masa yang sama masih dibelenggu dengan masalah upah atau gaji yang rendah.

"Namun begitu, apa yang dibimbangi ialah pengeluaran dibuat semata-mata untuk berbelanja bagi perkara yang bukan mendesak seperti membeli gajet, menghias rumah, menukar aksesori kenderaan atau tujuan fesyen lebih-lebih lagi sekarang ini ia boleh dibuat menerusi kaedah 'beli sekarang bayar kemudian'," katanya kepada Bernama baru-baru ini.

Merujuk laman web <https://www.kwsp.gov.my/>, KWSP menjalankan penstrukturan semula akaun pencarum untuk meningkatkan keselamatan pendapatan selepas persaraan dan bagi menangani keperluan jangka pendek golongan itu.

KWSP memperkenalkan tiga akaun baharu iaitu Akaun Persaraan yang sebelum ini dikenali sebagai Akaun 1, untuk simpanan hari persaraan; Akaun Sejahtera yang sebelum ini dikenali sebagai Akaun 2 untuk keperluan kitaran hayat semasa persaraan dan yang terkini Akaun 3 atau Akaun Fleksibel yang diperkenalkan pada 25 April lepas yang memberikan fleksibiliti kepada pencarum untuk membuat pengeluaran pada bila-bila masa untuk keperluan kewangan jangka pendek.

Berkuatkuasa 11 Mei 2024, ca-



AKAUN 3 yang diwujudkan bertujuan memenuhi keperluan asas dan mereka yang berhadapan isu 'kecemasan'.

rumah baharu akan diagihkan mengikut peratusan: Akaun Persaraan (75 peratus), Akaun Sejahtera (15 peratus) dan Akaun Fleksibel (10 peratus) berbanding sebelum ini, Akaun 1 (70 peratus) manakala Akaun 2 (30 peratus).

Selepas penstrukturan semula akaun dilaksanakan, baki sedia ada dalam Akaun 1 dan Akaun 2 akan kekal dalam Akaun Persaraan dan Akaun Sejahtera masing-masing, sementara Akaun Fleksibel akan bermula dengan baki sifar. Kadar dividen adalah sama untuk semua akaun.

Mengulas lanjut, Muhammad Hisyam berkata langkah memperkenalkan Akaun 3 sedikit sebanyak dapat mengatasi isu pengeluaran caruman secara besar-besaran seperti yang berlaku semasa negara dilanda pandemik Covid-19 sebelum ini.

"Bagaimanapun dari sudut yang lain pula, pengenalan Akaun 3 ini menyebabkan 10 peratus wang simpanan yang sepatutnya berada dalam KWSP bagi tujuan persaraan atau perumahan, pendidikan atau kesihatan sebelum ini, boleh dikeluarkan pada bila-bila masa oleh pencarum.

"Dengan kata lain, sekiranya pencarum kerap membuat pengeluaran menerusi Akaun 3, ia boleh menyebabkan 10 peratus simpanan hari tua mereka berkurangan sebelum persaraan. Walaupun jumlahnya 10 peratus,

ia tidak boleh dipandang ringan memandangkan menjelang 2030 kita akan menjadi negara menua dengan jangka hayat penduduk semakin panjang dan pada masa yang sama kos sara hidup terus meningkat.

"Tanpa simpanan persaraan yang mencukupi, situasi ini akan menyukarkan kehidupan pencarum yang terlibat nanti," katanya.

Mengaitkan perkara ini dengan isu ketidakcukupan simpanan persaraan, beliau berkata, semasa pandemik Covid-19 ramai pencarum terjejas dan berhadapan dengan masalah kewangan justeru bagi membantu kelangsungan hidup, kerajaan membenarkan pencarum membuat empat jenis pengeluaran KWSP yang melibatkan i-Lestari, i-Sinar, i-Citra dan Pengeluaran Khas.

Menurut beliau, kesan dari pada siri pengeluaran tersebut, jumlah peratusan ahli aktif yang mencapai simpanan asas RM240,000 pada usia 55 tahun menurun.

Untuk rekod, Kementerian Kewangan dipetik melaporkan dalam jawapan bertulis di laman sesawang Parlimen pada 20 November 2023, seramai 6.3 juta ahli KWSP berumur bawah 55 tahun atau 48 peratus mempunyai baki simpanan kurang daripada RM10,000 dalam akaun mereka setakat 30 Sept lepas.

"Ini secara tidak langsung

memberi gambaran jika perkara ini tidak ditangani, kebanyakan pencarum akan berhadapan dengan masalah kewangan apabila mereka bersara nanti. Purata jangka hayat penduduk yang meningkat akan menyebabkan wang simpanan yang ada tidak dapat menampung keperluan kehidupan pencarum untuk tempoh 10 hingga 20 tahun selepas persaraan mereka.

"Oleh itu, kerajaan perlu memperhebat usaha meningkatkan tahap literasi dan celik kewangan dalam kalangan masyarakat bagi membantu mereka mengurus wang atau pendapatan dengan lebih baik dan berkesan," katanya.

Menjawab persoalan bagaimana langkah ini praktikal membantu menangani kos sara hidup rakyat, Muhammad Hisyam berkata, ia bergantung kepada jumlah caruman bulanan.

Beliau berkata, jika jumlah caruman bulanan besar, pengenalan Akaun 3 ini sedikit sebanyak dapat membantu pencarum dalam menangani kos sara hidup kerana mereka mempunyai lebih banyak simpanan untuk tujuan perbelanjaan.

"Di Malaysia, caruman pekerja ditetapkan pada kadar 11 peratus manakala majikan pula perlu mencarum antara 12 hingga 13 peratus. Jadi secara keseluruhan caruman bulanan adalah sekitar 22 hingga 23 peratus. Katakan caruman bulanan pekerja dan majikan A adalah sebanyak RM1,000, jadi 10 peratus akan dimasukkan ke akaun 3. Di sini A mempunyai RM100 dalam akaun

3. Dan semakin tinggi caruman semakin besarlah amaun yang ada dalam akaun 3 tadi.

"Akan tetapi jika seseorang itu bergaji rendah, katakan menerima gaji minimum RM1,500, jadi caruman pekerja dan caruman majikan mungkin sekitar RM345 sebulan dan di sini, jumlah simpanan yang masuk ke akaun 3 hanyalah RM34.50 sahaja.

"Sebenarnya, isu ini juga ada kaitan dengan masalah gaji yang rendah yang diterima pekerja Malaysia. Sebagai contoh gaji minimum RM1,500 itu sebenarnya jauh lebih rendah daripada gaji kehidupan wajar untuk individu sebanyak RM2,700 yang dicadangkan oleh pihak Bank Negara pada 2017. Jika gaji dan upah yang diterima pekerja kekal rendah dan tidak meningkat seiring dengan peningkatan kos sara hidup, ini sudah tentu memberi tekanan kepada mereka untuk menjalani satu kehidupan yang berkualiti," katanya.

Beliau pada masa sama menambah, menerusi Akaun 3, pencarum akan mempunyai lebih banyak tunai dalam tangan, namun untuk jangka panjang, wang persaraan mereka mungkin akan berkurang sebanyak 10 peratus sekiranya kerap membuat pengeluaran dan terlepas peluang untuk menajana pendapatan menerusi dividen tahunan yang diumumkan oleh KWSP yang boleh disifatkan sebagai antara yang kompetitif.

Berdasarkan jangkaan KWSP, pencarum akan membuat pengeluaran sebanyak RM25 bilion dari Akaun 3 mereka untuk tahun pertama selepas ia diperkenalkan dan jumlah ini akan menjadi antara RM4 hingga RM5 bilion selepas itu.

"Perkara ini akan menyebabkan berlakunya pertambahan tunai dalam pasaran dan ini boleh membantu para peniaga dan pengusaha menerusi perbelanjaan yang dibuat oleh pencarum. Namun begitu ia juga boleh membawa kepada peningkatan harga barang jika tiada kawalan daripada pihak kerajaan tambahan pula pada hujung tahun nanti, penjawat awam akan mendapat kenaikan gaji lebih 13 peratus," katanya.

Sementara itu pensyarah kanan Pusat Pengajian Ekonomi, Kewangan dan Perbankan, Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Muhammad Ridhuan Bos Abdullah berkata, kitaran ekonomi amat dipengaruhi gelagat tabung dan perbelanjaan pengeluaran.

“Apa yang dibimbangi ialah pengeluaran dibuat untuk perkara bukan mendesak”
Muhammad Hisyam

DBKL roboh tiga struktur berbumbung haram 6A (DBKL) 10/5

Kuala Lumpur: Dewan Bandaraya Kuala Lumpur (DBKL) merobohkan tiga struktur kekal berbumbung tanpa permit yang sah dan pindah halangan di Jalan Hang Tuah 4, Salak Selatan, kelmarin.

DBKL berkata, tindakan diambil menerusi Jabatan Penguatkuasaan, Pejabat Cawangan Seputeh dan Jabatan Pelesenan dan Pembangunan Perniagaan DBKL.

"Tindakan khas dijalankan adalah menerusi peruntukan di bawah Seksyen 46(1)(d) Akta Ja-

lan Parit dan Bangunan 1974.

"Antara barangan disita adalah gerai kayu, batang besi, batang aluminium dan lain-lain," katanya dalam kenyataan.

Kenyataan itu menyebut barang dan peralatan yang disita, dihantar ke Stor Sitaan DBKL Jalan Lombong, Taman Miharja Cheras untuk dokumentasi dan tindakan selanjutnya.

"Tindakan dan pemantauan berterusan akan dijalankan menerusi siri tindakan khas di 11 Parlimen Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur," katanya.



DBKL merobohkan struktur kekal berbumbung tanpa permit dan pindah halangan di Jalan Hang Tuah 4, Salak Selatan, kelmarin.
(Foto ihsan FB DBKL)

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh.....1..0..MAY..2024.....

NEW SALARY SCHEME

NSR 10/5

SSPA will change public sector for the better

THE government will soon introduce the new Public Service Remuneration System (Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam, or SSPA) offering civil servants a more equitable, performance-driven and inclusive framework for better career progression.

The public sector salary review announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim on May 1 includes an increment of more than 13 per cent, effective Dec 1.

The new scheme, which was under study and review for nearly one year, is considered the best one to meet the current challenging economic situation. It is expected to improve the civil service salary structure.

The prime minister said the minimum monthly salary and fixed allowances for civil servants would be increased to more than RM2,000, from the present RM1,795. This increment will cost the government approximately RM10 billion.

In line with the Madani principles, the government anticipates that the salary review would enhance productivity and efficiency of the civil service, to be on a par with the private sector.

The new SSPA is a significant milestone towards a more efficient, responsive, and people-centric service delivery.

It seeks to empower civil servants to thrive in an increasingly complex and competitive environment, and transform the civil service to be more agile, meritocratic and employee-friendly.

The SSPA sets the stage for a brighter future where civil servants are empowered to excel, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to the nation's development goals.

DR PERIASAMY GUNASEKARAN

Senior Research Fellow
National Institute of Public
Administration (INTAN)
Kuala Lumpur

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 10 MAY 2024

Tree in crash incident was **weakened** by cutting of roots

➤ Critical severance of foundation to facilitate building of walkway left it unstable, says expert

■ BY **SIVANISVARRY MORHAN**
AND **QIRANA NABILLA MOHD RASHIDI**
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PETALING JAYA: The incident on Tuesday in which a 47-year-old man died after a large tree toppled at Jalan Sultan Ismail in Kuala Lumpur during a thunderstorm, crushing several cars and a bus stop, was the result of extensive cutting of its roots to build a walkway.

Architecture and urban design senior lecturer Ungku Norani Sonet Ungku Abdul Rahman said the incident was not solely due to the age of the tree or the weather.

"The severance of the roots left it unstable and the tree could be likened to a standing pencil. This ultimately led to its collapse, the loss of life and significant property damage," she said.

Certified arborist Dr Ahmad Ainuddin Nuruddin supported her view.

"The tragic event could have been prevented if the roots of the tree involved had not been severely cut."

An arborist is a professional who is involved in the cultivation, management, and study of individual trees, shrubs, and vines.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa, who visited the site on Tuesday, said inspections of trees were carried out once every two years.

"While the 50-year-old tree was under private supervision, the frequency of inspections needs to be increased, especially given the unpredictable weather conditions," Zaliha said.

As pictures of the uprooted tree with its roots severed spread on social media, the public have also raised concerns about whether more trees will suffer the same fate.

Ungku Norani said the minister's comments came too little too late and stressed the importance of striking a balance between making landscapes attractive and ensuring trees are safe.

"The Kuala Lumpur City Hall should have effective monitoring and maintenance practices, regardless of whether the trees are old or otherwise, and whether they are situated on public or private property."

"The responsibility for tree care must be shared between City Hall and property owners to keep urban areas safe and green. The tree-falling incident is just one example of what can happen when maintenance is neglected."

She said while authorities often focus on trees to make landscapes beautiful, they tend

to overlook the need to take effective safety measures.

"Trees add beauty to our surroundings. However, their real value lies in them thriving in a way that does not pose risks to the public or property. Just admiring trees for their looks isn't enough if we're not actively working to keep them healthy and stable."

"We need to change our mindset and start prioritising ways to maintain trees properly to prevent more fatal accidents," she said.

Ungku Norani called for a shift in how authorities approach tree care and said a more comprehensive strategy that considers aesthetics and safety is required.

"By implementing robust guidelines and fostering collaboration between stakeholders, city and municipal councils can mitigate risks associated with such incidents and safeguard the public."

A City Hall spokesperson declined to provide clarification when *theSun* contacted it for its response to public concerns about how it carried out landscaping works.

"The matter is currently under investigation. We are in a meeting with the mayor to seek clarification regarding the incident."

"We urge the media and the public to await completion of the investigation before we can provide an official statement," he said.

On Wednesday, City Hall was directed to prepare new guidelines for the management of the city's aging trees.

Tarikh: 11 D MAY 2024