



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 12 MAC 2024 (SELASA)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

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MEDIA CETAK (AKHBAR / MAJALAH)

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LAIN-LAIN PBT

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New road built to ease congestion in Puchong

By AISYAH ANESEE



The new connecting road between Kinrara Industrial Park and Jalan BK 5B Puchong.

RM3mil project aimed at shortening travel time for 100,000 folk

The new road linking Persiaran Taman Perindustrian Kinrara and Jalan BK 5B in Puchong, Selangor, is expected to ease traffic congestion in the area.

More than 100,000 residents and businesses are expected to benefit from this 230m stretch, especially during peak hours.

Prior to this, Bandar Kinrara and Kinrara Industrial Park were only connected via internal roads.

"The new road will shorten travel time by 15 minutes," said Selangor investment, trade and mobility committee chairman Ng Sze Han at the project site.

He was pleased that the project had been completed before Ramadan.

THE STAR ONLINE
TARIKH: 12 MAC 2024

New road built to ease congestion in Puchong

By AISYAH ANESEE



Ng (front, left) and Mohd Fauzi (centre) taking a closer look at the new road.

"Last year, people complained that they could not make it home in time to break their fast with family.

"With this new connecting road, I hope that will no longer be the case," he added.

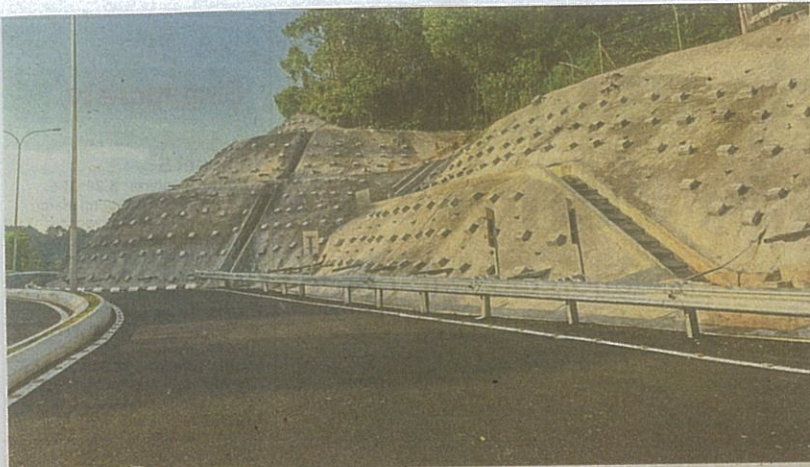
Ng said Bandar Kinrara residents could now use this alternative road to get to Puchong Jaya, Bandar Puchong or Bandar Puteri.

Built at a cost of RM3mil by Subang Jaya City Council, the project began on Feb 8 last year and was completed on Feb 14 this year.

The work included building a drainage system, streetlight installation and slope strengthening. It was learnt that a bulk of the cost went towards stabilising the slope next to the road.

Subang Jaya mayor Mohd Fauzi Mohd Yatim, who was visiting the site, suggested that a walkway be built for pedestrians and placing additional signboards to improve safety.

"More lights can also be installed for the safety of residents at night."



The new connecting road between Kinrara Industrial Park and Jalan BK 5B Puchong.



Ng (front, left) and Mohd Fauzi (centre) taking a closer look at the new road.

By AISYAH ANESEE
metro@thestar.com.my

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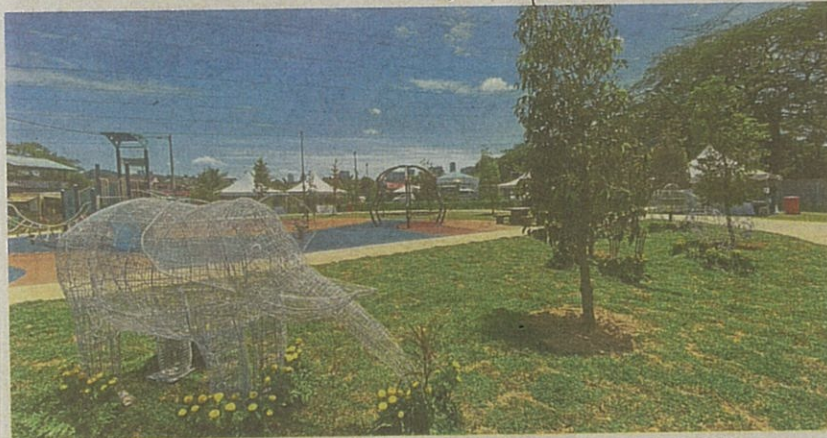
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THE STAR

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

RM1.7mil public park launched in Bandar Tun Razak



Work on creating Taman Kejiranan Ikhlas in Bandar Tun Razak out of vacant land started in 2016.

By JAROD LIM
and AISYAH ANESE
metro@thestar.com.my

VACANT land along Lorong Ikhlas 1 in Bandar Tun Razak has been transformed into a public park by Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

Named Taman Kejiranan Ikhlas, it is one of five landscap-

ing projects completed by DBKL last year.

Mayor Datuk Kamarulzaman Mat Salleh said at the launch, "DBKL is committed to creating more green spaces in the city, including planting one million trees in Kuala Lumpur."

"This is a joint effort with various agencies and NGOs."

"We envision having 30 pocket

parks in the city by 2030."

Currently, there are 20 pocket parks in Kuala Lumpur.

The other four landscaping projects completed by DBKL comprised signage and additional walkway to Taman Tasik Danau Kota, Wangsa Maju; tree planting around Cheras; landscaping development at Lot 80638 in Jalan Besar, Kepong, as well as



Dr Wan Azizah (left) and Kamarulzaman (right) planting a tree at the park.

landscape upgrading works at Taman Orkid and Taman Bunga Raya in Lembah Pantai.

Work on the RM1.7mil Taman Kejiranan Ikhlas, which is beside Bandar Tun Razak Kelab Warga Emas, started in 2016.

The one-hectare park has facilities such as a playground, exercise equipment, running track, walkways, seating areas and dec-

orative walls. It is open 24 hours.

The information board stated that prior to its development, it was an abandoned space.

Bandar Tun Razak MP Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, who inaugurated the park, said maintaining Taman Kejiranan Ikhlas was every visitor's responsibility.

THE STAR

12 MAR 2024

Tarikh:.....

Section of WCE toll-free until May



New way: An aerial view of Section 11 of the WCE, covering the route between the Taiping Selatan and Beruas elevated interchanges.

BUKIT GANTANG: Motorists using the West Coast Expressway (WCE) between the Taiping Selatan and Beruas elevated interchanges will enjoy no toll when they pass through the Section 11 toll plaza until May 11.

Works Minister Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi said the two-month toll-free rides would be enjoyed by motorists entering the expressway from the Taiping Selatan, Trong and Beruas toll plazas from both directions.

"Thanks to the concession company and the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM) for approving the two-month toll-free rides for motorists using the route, which I was made to understand is costing about RM422mil.

"The opening of this section of the expressway is timely as we welcome the holy month of Ramadan and Hari Raya Aidilfitri soon.

"This is indeed a long-awaited alternative route.

"After this, the toll rate will be 16 sen per kilometre," he told reporters after opening Section 11 of the WCE here yesterday, Bernama reported.

Nanta said the government, through the ministry, Public Works Department and LLM, constantly studies traffic flow

based on existing capacity, compared to the number of vehicles on the road, followed by planning and improvement actions to reduce congestion, especially during peak hours, festive seasons and school holidays.

According to Nanta, the WCE is also expected to become an alternative route for motorists heading north from the Klang Valley and west coast states.

He also suggested establishing a logistics network for heavy vehicles to make the route a preferred choice, especially for those heading to the Lumut, Teluk Intan and Klang ports.

This, Nanta said, would allow them to avoid hilly terrains on alternative routes and optimise operational costs, while helping to reduce traffic congestion.

The minister, reported Bernama, said discussions were also being held with farmers to ensure their farm animals, such as cows, will not wander onto the expressway and endanger road users.

The WCE is the latest alternative route connecting Banting, Shah Alam, Kuala Selangor and Tanjung Karang in Selangor to Hutan Melintang, Teluk Intan, Seri Manjung, Beruas and Taiping in Perak.

The opening of Section 11 of the WCE, covering a stretch of 35.5km, is expected to

reduce travel time from Changkat Jerling to Beruas to only 20 minutes from 55 minutes via the existing route.

On a separate project, Nanta said the development of the 60km-long West Ipoh Span Expressway (WISE) linking Gopeng and Kuala Kangsar is still in the planning stage.

"We will ensure that the project commences in the middle of this year. We have requested it to be expedited, especially for the signing of agreements and so on," he said.

Prior to this, the Perak government confirmed that the Cabinet had approved the WISE project on Dec 13 last year.

WISE is a solution to traffic issues on the North-South Expressway, providing an alternative route for highway users, especially when accidents occur at the Menora Tunnel.

Earlier in his speech, Nanta said his ministry has received 12,245 complaints involving various road issues through the MYJalan app so far.

He also reminded all concession companies responsible for maintaining roads and highways to perform their duties diligently as their performance is continuously monitored under the key performance index system.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

Balancing act in preserving geosites

Tourism Selangor navigates rocky terrain while juggling between heritage and development

Stories by **BAVANI M** and
SHALINI RAVINDRAN
metro@thestar.com.my

SELANGOR'S dream of seeking international recognition for the Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark (GHL Geopark), a natural wonder which has already achieved national status, is facing a slight delay.

Citing the need for additional preparation time, Tourism Selangor chief executive officer Azrul Shah Mohamad said his team was working towards submitting the application for the prestigious Unesco Global Geopark label within four years.

"While our initial target was 2027, we have extended it to 2028," he explained.

"The intricate process and comprehensive documentation required for compiling the dossier necessitated the delay."

The GHL Geopark joins the ranks of 10 other national geoparks, including Jerai Geopark in Kedah, Kinta Valley and Lenggong Geopark in Perak, Labuan Geopark in the Federal Territory of Labuan, Sarawak Delta Geopark in Sarawak, Stong Geopark in Kelantan, and Kenyir Geopark in Terengganu.

Malaysia currently boasts two global geoparks with Unesco status: Langkawi Unesco Global Geopark and Kinabalu Unesco Global Geopark.

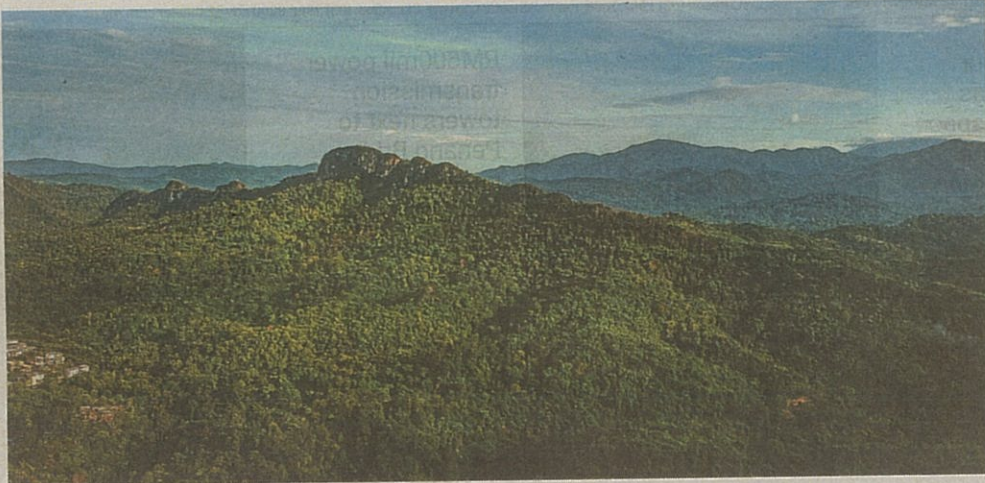
A geopark is a single, unified geographical area where geological heritage sites are managed as part of a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development, encompassing tourism and conservation.

"The GHL Geopark is all that and more; it encompasses the Gombak district and parts of Hulu Langat, falling under the jurisdiction of Selayang Municipal Council (MPS) and Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ)," said Azrul Shah.

He added that the area encompassed more than 112,955ha.

The Federal Government recognised GHL Geopark as a national geopark on Nov 14, 2022.

On Nov 10, 2023, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, when tabling



The elongated and vertical craggy rock landscape that rises out of the green tropical forest is a distinguishing feature of the Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark. — Photos courtesy of Tourism Selangor

the 2024 Budget, said the state would allocate RM2mil to facilitate the GHL Geopark's recognition as a Unesco Global Geopark.

"For a geopark to be globally recognised, there should be elements of ecology, geology, archaeology, history and culture, and all these elements must be strengthened through comprehensive and effective management and control."

"For success, it is crucial that the community appreciates the area's economic and cultural value. This is particularly true for geological heritage and involvement in tourism activities," said Azrul Shah.

He said it was essential for their Unesco aspiration, as the organisation advocated for the bottom-up approach of combining conservation with sustainable development while involving local communities.

"Each state has its own geopark, and in order to qualify for National Geopark status, the National Geopark Evaluation Committee will review, assess, and evaluate."

Selangor's tourism brochures highlight the GHL ridge as having an estimated age of 82 million years, originating as a burrow formed within the earth but later exposed to the surface during the basin-filling process in



Azrul Shah cites the need for additional time to submit the application for Unesco status.

the Paleocene-Holocene period due to extensive weathering.

The harsh mineral properties of quartz compared to granite rocks accentuate the shape of the ridge.

This geosite is the longest (exposed) quartz ridge in South-East Asia, spanning 14km.

"Our geopark has a rich and diverse history and attractions, including hot springs, waterfalls, forests, wildlife and a whole lot of other gems that sadly, many people don't know about," said Azrul Shah.

"When people talk about visiting a geopark, they think of Langkawi, but our geosites are equally fascinating," he said,

adding that GHL has 31 geosites in total, but the state is focused on developing and promoting 20 first.

"Out of those, 13 are tourism sites like Batu Caves, Kanching River Falls, Selayang Hot Springs, and the Batu Arang coal city."

"We are promoting all these sites, and because GHL is an urban geosite, there are issues and challenges that require our attention, especially since these sites are located in townships right next to residential and business areas that come under multiple city councils and agencies."

"The challenge is to be able to combine both conservation and sustainable economic development with the residents and local councils, and to strike that balance between scientific and natural resource preservation and the development of tourism," he elaborated.

Push for Unesco status

On the criteria for selection of Unesco Global Geoparks, Azrul Shah said the focus was on global heritage with an emphasis on the relationship between geological features and local communities.

According to the Unesco website, a Unesco Global

Geopark has multiple aims which include capacity building, improving governance, and promotion.

Some of the better-known ones in the region are Bohol Island Unesco Global Geopark in the Philippines, Rinjani-Lombok and Toba Caldera Unesco Global Geopark in Indonesia as well as Dak Nong Unesco Global Geopark in Vietnam.

Geoparks serve local communities by combining the conservation of their significant geological heritage with public outreach and a sustainable approach to development.

A Unesco Global Geopark is not a formal legislative designation, although the defining geological heritage sites within a Unesco Global Geopark must be protected under indigenous, local, regional or national legislation as appropriate.

Local, state or federal management authorities ensure appropriate site protection measures within individual site management plans, in cooperation with the relevant agencies, to guarantee effective conservation and protection and provide necessary monitoring and maintenance of the proposed area.

Azrul Shah said that while Tourism Selangor was actively promoting and preparing the site

THE STAR

12 MAR 2024

Tarikh:

Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark

Area:
1,129.55km²

The highest peak:
Bukit Nuang (1,493m)

Biosites:
> Limestone Cave Habitat, Batu Caves
> Granite Forest, Ulu Gombak
> Ibex Habitat, Gombak Quartz Ridge
> Mogot Habitat, Bukit Takun and Bukit Anak Takun
> FRIM Secondary Forest, Kepong
> Endemic Palm Habitat, Recreational Forest, Sungai Tekala

Geosites:
31

Forest reserve area:
63,767.60 ha

Eco-Forest Parks:
9

Traditional villages:
40

Indigenous villages:
17

Mammals:
42 species

Plant:
275 species

Bird:
247 species

Source: Tourism Selangor

The Star graphics

for Unesco recognition, they were working with the Mineral and Geoscience Department to find ways to retain and sustain the geopark area.

However, he conceded that there were challenges with various stakeholders.

"We have to raise awareness of the geological heritage, landscapes and fossils, and to bridge that heritage to sustainable development and local communities and maintaining that balance," he said, adding that the state was collaborating with geologists, town planners as well as local communities in the area to make it happen.

"We have appointed local experts who are familiar with the area's history; we are empowering them to inculcate the sense of belonging and love for the area, and we have done this in Batu Arang with the Batu Arang Heritage Association.

"And we have also involved schools and universities within the geopark area to become Geo-School ambassadors whereby students are taught about the importance of geoparks."

So far three schools, SK Batu Arang, SK Dusun Tua, and SK Melawati 2 have been appointed as geopark ambassadors.

Insufficient understanding

However, Azrul Shah said that despite some tourist attractions being located within the geopark area, public awareness remained lacking.

"One of the major challenges is the lack of awareness and conservation efforts.

"There is insufficient public

understanding of the importance of geological heritage, and inadequate conservation measures have been taken for most of the geoparks in Malaysia, exacerbated by rapid infrastructure development," he noted.

To address this issue, he said Tourism Selangor was working with the Mineral and Geoscience Department to seek professional advice on how to preserve and sustain the geopark area.

Another challenge they face is one arising from conflicts among different stakeholders, as some geopark areas are privately owned by communities, state-owned, or under the jurisdiction of the State Forestry Department.

Through Tourism Selangor's efforts, Azrul Shah said attempts were made to bring together all stakeholders to ensure the preservation of selected geosites and the long-term conservation of geological heritage.

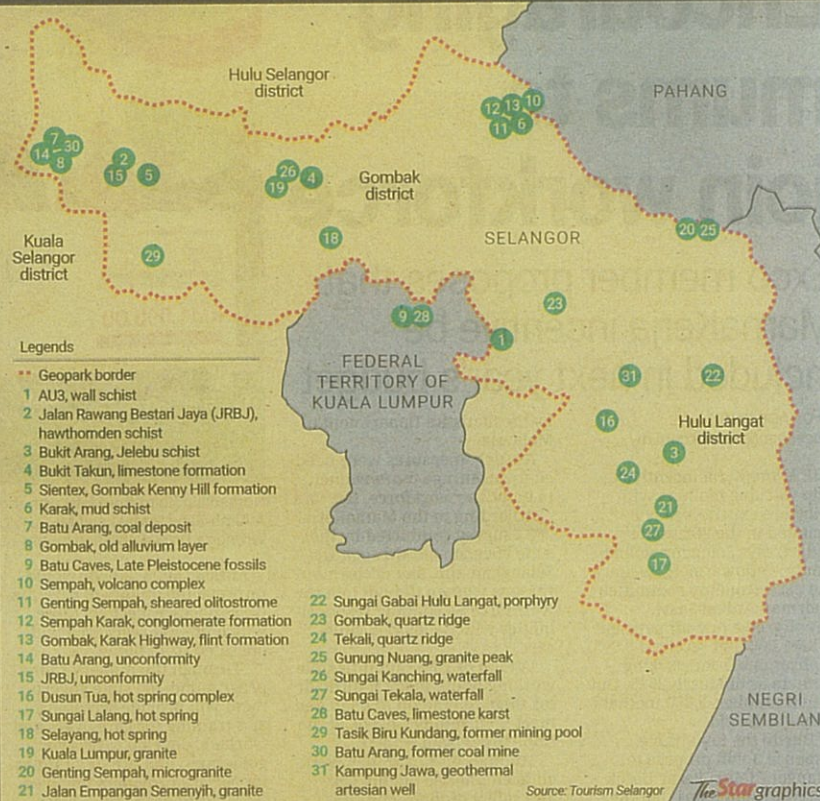
"We have to encourage development within the geopark area with a comprehensive sustainability approach and ensuring adherence to the GHL Geopark management plan guidelines and the National Geopark Development Plan 2030 by all parties involved."

He hopes that once Unesco recognition is achieved, it will facilitate the implementation and promotion of rules and regulations to the public.

"We need to start educating our children now as the future generation who will be the caretakers of these national treasures.

"Because at the end of the day, our biggest threat is still posed by us humans," he added.

Geosites for Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark



A river crossing on the way to the Gunung Nuang granite peak, which is one of the geosites that make up the Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark in Selangor.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

Ringgit slide attributed to lower OPR increase 97/12/3

THE lower Overnight Policy Rate (OPR) increase by Malaysia as compared to the Philippines, Indonesia, Korea and India is one of the main reasons for the ringgit's decline, says Finance Minister II Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan.

He said while Malaysia's OPR remains at 3% after it was increased by 125 basis points, the four other countries hiked their key policy rates by 200 to 450 basis points – much higher than Malaysia's.

"The lower OPR increase compared to those countries is one of the main reasons for the ringgit's decline.

"The significant difference in interest rates with the United States, which is as much as 250 basis points, prompts foreign investors to shift their capital out of the domestic market to markets that provide higher returns.

WATCH THE
VIDEO
TheStarTV.com



"The main goal of Bank Negara's monetary policy committee in determining the OPR is to stabilise prices and ensure sustainable economic growth and not to control the ringgit exchange rate," Amir Hamzah said when winding up the debate on the motion of thanks on the royal address in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

He added that if the OPR is increased to strengthen the ringgit, the national economy will be affected and various parties, especially borrowers, will have to pay higher interest.

In a supplementary question, Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong (BN-Ayer Hitam) asked Amir

Hamzah to explain the government's plan in managing the national debt settlement and steps it will take to cover the increase in costs.

According to the MCA president, the current debt servicing costs have risen dramatically.

"The debt service cost payment for Q4 of 2020 was RM8.4bil and increased to RM10.2bil in Q4 2021. It then jumped to RM12.1bil in Q4 2022 and for Q4 2023, it skyrocketed to RM16.5bil.

"How will the government cover the increase considering that the bond issue interest has increased from 2.5% in 2017 to almost 4% currently?" Dr Wee asked.

To this, Amir Hamzah asked for the government to be given the space to continue its efforts in ensuring economic growth and strengthening the ringgit.

He said the government is taking measures to protect its fiscal

policy where among others, the country's fiscal deficit to gross domestic product ratio has been lowered to 5% from 5.6% in 2022.

"This year, we project that it will go down further to 4.3%. Other than that, the government is also collaborating with government-linked companies and government-linked investment companies, where we provide opportunities for them to gain more profits through their investments abroad.

"When they (businesses) invest abroad, they will gain much more profits and they will bring the returns back (to the country). In the last one and a half weeks, we could see the ringgit value strengthening.

"Now, the confidence in foreign investors who are investing in Malaysia is also encouraging. So, let the government continue with its methods," said Amir Hamzah.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

Encouraging mums to join workforce

Exco member proposes that MamaKerja incentive be included in next year's budget

By GRACE CHEN
gracechen@thestar.com.my

THE MamaKerja incentive to help working mothers with childcare expenses may be included in the 2025 state budget, says Selangor women, family empowerment, welfare and care economy committee chairman Anfaal Saari.

It offered a one-off payment of RM1,000 and received 5,595 applications from working mothers as of March 2023. Out of that number, 3,850 mothers received the aid.

"Due to the favourable response, I will propose to Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari that the MamaKerja incentive be offered annually," said Anfaal.

She was speaking at the state-level Women's Day event at the MPAJ field in Pandan Indah.

In her speech, Anfaal noted that the percentage of working women in Selangor stood at 69.9%, compared to 83.5% for men, according to the Labour Force Participation Survey 2022

by the Statistics Department of Malaysia.

As such, measures were needed to encourage more women to enter the workforce, she said.

According to the MamaKerja 2023 survey conducted by the state government through the Selangkah app, one of the main reasons women did not join the workforce was family responsibilities which included childcare.

"A total of 13% said inflexible working hours made it difficult for them to hold on to a job and meet their family's needs at the same time," said Anfaal.

"Another 13% said they wanted to emphasise quality care and safety of their children.

"The percentage of Selangor women who are unpaid family workers was also the highest in Malaysia at 20.7%.

"These are individuals who work in businesses, enterprises and farms run by their families," she added.

As for those who are in the workforce, 61% cited the high cost of childcare services as a major challenge.



Norashikin (third from left) with (from sixth left) Deputy Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Aiman Athirah Sabu, Anfaal and MPAJ president Dr Ani Ahmad during the aid presentation ceremony at the Selangor Women's Day celebration held in conjunction with MPAJ Community Day. — WILLIAM GARY/The Star

Anfaal said Selangor would improve the quality of care centre services, especially those which are not registered and operated from home.

"Through the nursery rating programme, the state government will provide screening and training for caregivers and workers, develop care service guidelines, and provide ratings for service providers involved.

"Mindful of the challenges faced by nursery operators in terms of registration, planning permission and renovation, the state government is planning to implement a matching grant programme as an incentive for them to register their businesses," she added.

On the setting up of creches in workplaces, Anfaal said according to Persatuan Taska Negeri Selangor, there is a high

demand for such facilities in Hulu Langat, Petaling and Gombak districts.

At the Women's Day event, 10 mothers were presented with MamaKerja financial aid.

Among them was Norashikin Tamiza, 37, a mother of six.

Her husband Mohd Shahrul Jema'en, 36, expressed gratitude for the RM1,000 aid.

"My wife, who is with a travel agency, has always worked outside the home," said the supervisor of a cooking oil factory.

"With combined incomes, we can provide a better quality of life for our family.

"If she had been a housewife, my financial responsibilities would have been heavier."

The programme was organised by Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) with Selangor women and family develop-

"Selangor will improve the quality of care centre services, especially those which are not registered."

Anfaal Saari.

ment permanent committee and Wanita Berdaya Selangor, a subsidiary of Menteri Besar Incorporated.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

MBSA edar 700 muffin sempena Hari Wanita Sedunia

SHAH ALAM - Sebanyak 700 muffin diedarkan oleh Majlis Bandaraya Shah Alam (MBSA) kepada pengunjung wanita sebagai simbolik Sambutan Hari Wanita Sedunia dan Hari Tanpa Kenderaan, di negeri ini pada Ahad.

Makanan itu diedarkan Timbalan Setiausaha Pengurusan MBSA, Asmah Mohd Zin dan Ahli Majlis MBSA, Siti Nur Aishah Mohd Zain di Dataran Kemerdekaan, Seksyen 14, di sini.

Pengarah Korporat dan Perhubungan Awam MBSA, Mohd Azhar Mohd Sharif berkata, program berkenaan bermula dengan pelepasan 'Rakan Muda Run' oleh Asmah bersama Pengarah Belia dan Sukan

Negeri Selangor, Azura Sarbin.

"Pelbagai aktiviti diadakan antaranya memanah, 'fitness challenge', bazar belia, cabutan bertuah, kaunter bergerak MBSA serta pameran dan jualan daripada pelbagai agensi," katanya dalam satu kenyataan pada Isnin.

Beliau berkata, turut diadakan gimik pelancaran Program Pembangunan Sukan Olahraga Shah Alam dengan kerjasama Kelab Olahraga Shah Alam yang diwakili Presidennya, Datuk H Harjeet Singh.

Ujarnya, gimik pelancaran disempurnakan Ahli Majlis MBSA, Tengku Ahmad Tengku Kasim.



Asmah (dua dari kanan) hadir memeriahkan sambutan Hari Wanita Sedunia sempena Hari Tanpa Kenderaan di Dataran Kemerdekaan, Seksyen 14, Shah Alam.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

Jangan jadikan Ramadan sebagai bulan pembaziran - Fadillah

sinar 12/3

KUALA LUMPUR - Timbalan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof menyeru umat Islam di negara ini supaya tidak menjadikan Ramadan sebagai bulan pembaziran makanan.

Menerusi catatan di Facebook pada Isnin, beliau berkata, pembaziran bukan sahaja dilarang dalam Islam malah bertentangan dengan prinsip kelestarian alam.

"Marilah kita saling mengingatkan antara satu sama lain agar mengurangkan budaya pembaziran yang berlebihan sepanjang bulan puasa ini," katanya.

Beliau turut mengajak umat Islam untuk menggandakan ibadah bagi meningkatkan lagi ketakwaan kepada ALLAH SWT serta kecintaan sesama manusia.

"Sambutlah Ramadan ini sebagai peluang terbaik untuk terus bermuhasabah dan

memperbaiki diri.

"Mudah-mudahan setiap amalan kita akan diterima oleh ALLAH SWT dengan rahmat, kasih sayang, pengampunan dan keberkatan daripada-Nya.

"Jangan lupa untuk titipkan juga doa buat saudara-saudara kita di bumi Gaza dan semoga ALLAH mengangkat doa-doa kita untuk pembebasan rakyat Palestin kelak," katanya.

Fadillah dalam pada itu turut mengucapkan selamat menunaikan ibadah puasa kepada semua umat Islam.

"Ramadan Al-Mubarak bulan yang sangat dinantikan oleh umat Islam, bulan terbaik untuk kita terus meningkatkan amal ibadah dan memperbanyakkan sedekah serta amalan kebajikan," katanya.

Umat Islam di Malaysia mula berpuasa hari ini.

- Bernama

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

Belanja di bazar RM5.4 bilion sebulan

Sinar 12/3

GAMBAR: BERNAMA

Sebanyak 12 juta umat Islam dijangka berbelanja purata RM15 sehari

Oleh NOR SYAMIRA LIANA
NOR ASHAHA
SHAH ALAM

Perbelanjaan berbuka puasa sepanjang Ramadan kali ini dianggarkan mampu mencecah RM30 bilion, merangkumi perbelanjaan di bazar Ramadan, restoran dan hotel.

Pakar Ekonomi Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia (MUST), Profesor Emeritus Dr Barjoi Bardai berkata, daripada jumlah keseluruhan umat Islam seramai 22 juta di negara ini, kira-kira 12 juta orang dijangka akan membuat pembelian di bazar Ramadan secara purata sebanyak RM15 seorang setiap hari.

"Jumlah keseluruhan mereka yang berbelanja di bazar selama sebulan (30 hari) adalah sebanyak RM5.4 bilion atau RM180 juta sehari.

"Anggaran berkenaan adalah tiga kali ganda lebih tinggi berbanding tahun lalu kerana peningkatan jumlah umat Islam yang membuat pembelian di bazar Ramadan dan mungkin akan ada peniaga yang ambil kesempatan untuk menaikkan harga susulan kenaikan harga barangan dan perkhidmatan," katanya ketika dihubungi pada Isnin.

Sebelum ini, Barjoi dalam laporan akhbar pada tahun lalu memaklumkan bahawa anggaran perbelanjaan sepanjang Ramadan mampu mencecah RM10 bilion termasuk perbelanjaan di bazar Ramadan yang membabitkan lebih RM70 juta sehari.

Pada tahun ini, beliau menjangkakan harga jualan tidak akan meningkat begitu ketara susulan orang ramai memboikot tindakan peniaga bazar Ramadan

BELANJA BUKA PUASA

Bazar:
12 juta x RM15 sehari
x 30 hari

Jumlah: RM5.4
bilion sebulan

Restoran dan hotel:
10 juta x RM30
seorang (restoran)
atau RM100 seorang
(hotel) x 30 hari

Jumlah: RM25.8
bilion sebulan



Bazar Ramadan di negara ini dijangka menjadi tumpuan kira-kira 12 juta umat Islam untuk membeli juadah berbuka puasa.

tahun lalu yang bertindak menaikkan harga sesuka hati sehingga digelar bazar kayangan.

Dalam pada itu, Barjoi turut menganggarkan seramai 10 juta umat Islam akan berbelanja di restoran dan hotel yang bertaraf tiga atau empat

bintang dengan nilai keseluruhan perbelanjaan adalah sebanyak RM25.8 bilion.

"Saya membuat anggaran ini secara minimum maka perbelanjaan makan di restoran untuk seorang adalah berjumlah RM30, namun ia boleh men-

cecah sehingga RM40.

"Bagi buket Ramadan di hotel pula, saya menganggarkan harga minimum untuk seorang berjumlah RM100 untuk hidangan yang biasa (tidak mewah) kerana ia boleh mencecah RM200," ujarnya.



BARJOI

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh:12 MAR 2024.....

Tambah baik infrastruktur jalan raya di selatan Selangor

Sinar 12/3

SHAH ALAM - Permodalan Negeri Selangor Berhad (PNSB) menandatangani perjanjian dengan firma pembinaan IJM Corp Bhd dan Lim Seong Hai Capital Bhd (LSH) untuk menambah baik infrastruktur jalan raya di daerah selatan Selangor.

Menerusi kenyataan bersama ketiga-tiga pihak itu, inisiatif berkenaan akan memberi tumpuan khusus kepada Pembangunan Serantau Bersepadu Selatan Selangor (IDRISS).

Kenyataan itu memaklumkan, perjanjian hasrat kerjasama yang ditandatangani antara ketiga-tiga pihak di Kuala Lumpur itu menandakan komitmen bagi menjayakan visi berkenaan.

"Kerjasama ini akan mengkaji pelbagai laluan sambungan yang berdaya maju dan merancang untuk memperkenalkan rangkaian pengangkutan utama dalam usaha untuk meningkatkan ketersambungan, mengurangkan masa perjalanan dan mewujudkan koridor pembangunan baharu," kata kenyataan tersebut pada Isnin.

Menurut kenyataan itu,



Chun Fai (dua dari kiri), Raja Ahmad Shahrir (tiga dari kiri) dan Keng Cheng (lima dari kiri) ketika majlis perjanjian hasrat kerjasama yang ditandatangani antara ketiga-tiga pihak di Kuala Lumpur.

PNSB akan menerajui perancangan, pengurusan tanah dan pengawasan projek, memamerkan komitmennya terhadap cita-cita strategik negeri Selangor, manakala kepakaran industri IJM dan LSH akan memastikan pelaksanaan lebih berkesan.

Sementara itu, Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif PNSB, Raja Ahmad Shahrir Iskandar Raja

Salim berkata, kerjasama yang dijalinan itu sebagai komitmen bagi memanfaatkan potensi ekonomi di wilayah selatan negeri Selangor.

"Pengalaman luas PNSB dan pemahaman mendalam tentang keperluan pembangunan tempatan negeri, di samping kekuatan kolektif IJM dan LSH, kami berhasrat mewujudkan infrastruktur yang teguh

menyokong visi jangka panjang untuk pertumbuhan dan pembangunan di wilayah tersebut dengan menerapkan elemen mampan menggunakan kerangka prinsip alam sekitar, sosial dan tadbir urus (ESG)," jelas beliau.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif dan Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan IJM, Lee Chun Fai pula memberitahu, penglibatan pihaknya

dalam inisiatif itu menggunakan kepakaran teras IJM dalam bidang pembinaan dan pembangunan infrastruktur untuk menyokong pembangunan negeri Selangor.

"Pendekatan kami adalah pragmatik, tertumpu kepada kesejahteraan masyarakat dan pembangunan wilayah yang mampan," kata beliau.

Sementara itu, Pengerusi Bukan Eksekutif LSH, Tan Sri Lim Keng Cheng memaklumkan, pihaknya teruja untuk bekerjasama dengan PNSB dan IJM dalam usaha strategik tersebut.

"Gabungan kepakaran ketiga-tiga pihak itu dalam pengurusan modal dan pembangunan infrastruktur akan memastikan kejayaan merealisasikan inisiatif IDRISS," katanya.

IDRISS bertujuan untuk memanfaatkan potensi ekonomi daerah Sepang dan Kuala Langat.

Projek pembangunan dalam IDRISS meliputi pelbagai sektor, termasuk perindustrian, logistik, pergudangan, pelabuhan, perdagangan, perumahan, pelancongan dan pendidikan.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh:12 MAR 2024.....



10 NEGARA PALING GEMBIRA

1. Republik Dominican
2. Sri Lanka
3. Tanzania
4. Panama
5. **MALAYSIA**
6. Nigeria
7. Venezuela
8. El Salvador
9. Costa Rica
10. Uruguay



10 NEGARA PALING TIDAK GEMBIRA

1. Uzbekistan
2. United Kingdom
3. Afrika Selatan
4. Brazil
5. Tajikistan
6. Australia
7. Mesir
8. Ireland
9. Iraq
10. Yaman



Malaysia berada di kedudukan kelima dalam senarai negara paling gembira di dunia menurut laporan Projek Minda Global, Mental State of the World.

Malaysia kelima paling gembira

Catat purata skor sebanyak 85 peratus

Oleh **NURATIKAH
ATHILYA HASSAN
SHAH ALAM**

Malaysia disenaraikan di kedudukan kelima daripada 10 negara paling gembira di dunia berdasarkan laporan tahun keempat Projek Minda Global, Mental State of the World.

Republik Dominican di tangga pertama diikuti Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Panama, Malaysia, Nigeria, Venezuela, El Salvador, Costa Rica dan Uruguay.

Laporan itu turut menyenaraikan 10 negara paling tidak gembira iaitu Uzbekistan di kedudukan teratas, diikuti United Kingdom, Afrika Selatan, Brazil, Tajikistan, Australia, Mesir, Ireland, Iraq dan Yaman.

Keputusan tersebut dibuat berdasar-

kan penyelidikan neurosains oleh Sapien Labs membabitkan tinjauan dalam talian tanpa nama terhadap 419,175 individu daripada 71 negara.

Kajian itu dilakukan untuk mendapatkan peratusan Mental Health Quotient (MHQ) individu berdasarkan 47 aspek kesihatan mental dalam enam kategori iaitu emosi dan pandangan, diri sosial, pemacu dan motivasi, sambungan minda-badan, kognisi, kebolehsesuaian serta daya tahan.

Maklumat mengenai gaya hidup, dinamik bersama keluarga dan rakan serta trauma peribadi turut ditanya dalam tinjauan berkenaan.

Berdasarkan maklum balas, responden yang terlibat dalam kajian tersebut akan diberikan skor dan diletakkan pada spektrum daripada berkembang maju kepada membimbangkan.

Menurut laporan itu, Republik Dominican mempunyai purata skor MHQ sebanyak 91 peratus, Sri Lanka (89) dan Tanzania (88) manakala Malaysia mencatatkan 85 peratus iaitu peningkatan sebanyak 2.9 peratus berbanding tahun lalu.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024



KEROSAKAN tempat tinggal akibat banjir tahun lalu dianggarkan menelan kerugian berjumlah RM168.3 juta.

Kerugian RM800 juta akibat banjir tahun lalu

PETALING JAYA - Jumlah kerugian keseluruhan akibat banjir pada tahun lalu bernilai RM800 juta, bersamaan 0.04 peratus berbanding Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) nominal, menurut Laporan Khas Impak Banjir di Malaysia 2023 yang diterbitkan Jabatan Perangkaan semalam.

Ini berbanding kerugian akibat banjir berjumlah RM1 bilion pada 2022, bersamaan 0.06 peratus berbanding KDNK nominal.

Ketua Perangkawan, Datuk Seri Mohd. Uzir Mahidin berkata, kajian berkenaan menilai jumlah kerugian dan kerosakan akibat banjir yang melanda negara pada 2023, meliputi nilai kerosakan tempat kediaman, kenderaan, premis perniagaan dan perindustrian.

"Tempat kediaman mengalami kerugian sebanyak RM168.3 juta (2022: RM157.4 juta), kenderaan RM22.3 juta (2022: RM18.8 juta), pembuatan RM10.3 juta (2022: RM8.7 juta) dan premis perniagaan RM53.2 juta (2022: RM50.3 juta).

"Selain itu, sektor pertanian mengalami kerugian RM120.6 juta (2022: RM154.5 juta) dan aset awam & infrastruktur sebanyak RM380.7 juta (2022: RM636.8 juta)," katanya dalam satu kenyataan.

Menurut laporan tersebut, Johor antara negeri yang mengalami kerugian tertinggi akibat bencana banjir tahun lalu, meliputi kerugian akibat kerosakan tempat kediaman sebanyak RM121.9 juta, kenderaan (RM15.9 juta) dan premis perniagaan (RM29.8 juta).

KOSMO

Tarikh: **12 MAR 2024**

Elak pembaziran di bulan Ramadan

RAMADAN al-mubarak telah membuka tirainya.

Setiap kali tibanya bulan Ramadan bulan yang penuh rahmat, keampunan dan pembebasan dari api neraka.

Maka berlumba-lumbalah umat Islam menambah pahala dan mengambil peluang mengisi masa sebaik mungkin dengan mendengar tazkirah, ceramah atau kuliah agama seiring dengan keutamaan bulan ini.

Namun, di bulan ini jugalah, sinonim masyarakat negara ini akan memenuhi bazar Ramadan bagi mencari juadah untuk berbuka selepas seharian menahan lapar dan dahaga.

Di bazar Ramadan, pelbagai juadah dihidangkan dan sudah pastinya kita akan menjadi rambang mata untuk memilih menu apa untuk dijadikan sajian berbuka.

Di saat memilih dan membeli makanan dan minuman tanpa kita sedari telah berbelanja melebihi apa yang diperlukan.

Sampai masanya juadah yang dibeli itu tidak dapat dihabiskan dan dibuang begitu sahaja, sekali gus menjadi satu pembaziran.

Pensyarah Kanan, Akademi Tamadun Islam, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Dr. Nurazmallail Marni berkata, hakikatnya, pembaziran akan



Analisis Semasa

Bersama
**MOHD.
SHARKAWI
LONDING**

mencatatkan keberkatan bulan Ramadan.

Menurutnya, tidak kiralah sama ada pembaziran itu melibatkan makanan, wang, tenaga, amalan, atau kesihatan dan tubuh badan.

"Apa yang dibazirkan itu sebenarnya mempunyai bahagian untuk orang lain yang boleh disedekah dan dimanfaatkan bagi memperoleh ganjaran pahala.

"Melatih diri agar tidak melakukan pembaziran dan melampaui batas dalam berbelanja adalah satu amalan yang dituntut dalam Islam.

"Justeru, Ramadan merupakan saat terbaik untuk menanam tekad membasmi pembaziran bermula daripada diri sendiri dan keluarga, seterusnya istiqamah untuk bulan-bulan akan datang," katanya.

Nurazmallail berkata, cara untuk mengelakkan kita daripada berbelanja lebih ketika Ramadan ialah utamakan menyediakan juadah

dengan memasak sendiri di rumah.

Katanya, memasak sendiri juadah berbuka puasa atau sahur pastinya dapat mengelakkan kita daripada berbelanja lebih.

Ramai yang memilih untuk ke bazar kerana suasana yang tidak ada seperti bulan-bulan lain.

"Bukan ingin menyekat rezeki orang lain, tetapi jika kehendak diri tidak boleh dikawal, maka kurangkanlah pergi ke bazar.

"Kita sendiri yang mengetahui had dan kemampuan diri.

"Selain itu, dengan memasak di rumah kita dapat meluangkan masa bersama keluarga berbanding keluar bersesak-sesak di luar," ujarnya.

Bazar Ramadan dan bulan puasa memang tidak boleh dipisahkan, terutamanya bagi orang yang bekerja dan tiada masa untuk memasak.

Oleh itu, pastikan berbelanja dengan berhemat setiap kali mengunjungi bazar Ramadan.

Sebenarnya banyak lagi cara atau tip untuk mengelakkan kita daripada melakukan pembaziran terutamanya di bulan Ramadan.

Sebaiknya kita yang menentukan diri kita sendiri.

Tepuk dada tanyalah iman dan diri kita.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

Peniaga dinasihat jual juadah selepas 3.30 petang

MELAKA – Peniaga bazar Ramadan khususnya di negeri ini dinasihatkan untuk tidak menjual juadah terlalu awal sebelum pukul 3.30 petang.

Mufti Melaka, Datuk Abdul Halim Tawil berkata, ia bagi menghormati kesucian bulan Ramadan dan mengelak daripada perbuatan menjual makanan

kepada mereka yang tidak berpuasa.

"Kita khuatir ada peniaga yang seawal pukul 12 tengah hari telah memulakan perniagaan dan ini sudah pasti bukan elemen sebenar dalam operasi bazar Ramadan."

"Sekurang-kurangnya paling awal adalah pukul 3.30 atau 4 pe-

tang, jika awal sangat saya yakin perkhidmatan diberikan itu adalah bagi melayani orang yang tidak berpuasa dan amalan ini tidak akan menghormati bulan Ramadan," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian pada sidang akhbar selepas menghadiri Majlis Cerapan Rasmi Hilal Ramadan 1445H/2024M pering-

kat Negeri Melaka yang berlangsung di Kompleks Falak Al-Khawarizmi, Kampung Balik Batu, di sini kelmari.

Turut hadir pada program itu adalah Yang di-Pertua Negeri, Tun Mohd. Ali Mohd. Rustam.

Dalam pada itu, beliau berkata, semua umat Islam diseru untuk bersama-sama menghayati

keindahan Ramadan dengan melakukan pelbagai amal ibadah termasuk solat tarawih, qiamullail dan tadarus al-Quran.

"Kita nasihatkan khususnya kepada golongan belia untuk bersama-sama menghayati bulan ini dengan melakukan pelbagai ibadah seperti tarawih, qiamullail dan tadarus," ujarnya.

KOSMO

12 MAR 2024

Tarikh:

Skop pengecualian cukai perkhidmatan diperluaskan

KOSMO 12/3

PETALING JAYA – Kerajaan mengumumkan perluasan skop pengecualian cukai perkhidmatan bagi sektor logistik bagi mengurangkan kesan cukai berganda.

Menurut Kementerian Kewangan dalam satu kenyataan semalam, berdasarkan kepada maklum balas dan pandangan yang telah dikemukakan, kerajaan bersetuju supaya skop pengecualian perniagaan ke perniagaan (B2B) perkhidmatan logistik diperluas untuk meliputi penyediaan perkhidmatan di bawah butiran yang sama.

Jelasnya, ia untuk mengurangkan insiden cukai berganda atau kesan melata daripada penge-

naan cukai atas cukai bagi beberapa lapisan rantaian bekalan logistik.

"Sebagai contoh, dengan perluasan skop pengecualian B2B ini, penyedia perkhidmatan penghantaran fret bukan sahaja mendapat pengecualian ke atas perkhidmatan fret, tetapi turut layak mendapat pengecualian ke atas perkhidmatan lain seperti pengangkutan, pelabuhan, perkapalan dan kemudahan rantaian sejuk yang berada dalam butiran sama dengan perkhidmatan fret tersebut.

"Kementerian Kewangan akan terus mengadakan sesi libat urus dengan pihak industri teru-

tamanya daripada sektor logistik bagi memuktamadkan pindaan ke atas garis panduan bagi membolehkan ianya dikuatkuasakan," katanya.

Dalam kenyataan sama, Kementerian Kewangan turut memberitahu bahawa kerajaan memahami keperluan pemain industri untuk mempunyai masa yang mencukupi dalam meminda sistem pengkomputeran mereka.

"Sehubungan itu, penyedia perkhidmatan logistik yang baharu berdaftar diberi tempoh satu bulan persediaan dan akan hanya mengenakan cukai perkhidmatan enam peratus mulai 1 April 2024," ujarnya.



SKOP pengecualian B2B perkhidmatan logistik diperluas bagi mengelak kesan cukai berganda. – GAMBAR HIASAN

KOSMO

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

Malaysia sasar kehadiran 27.3 juta pelancong tahun ini

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia menasaskan jumlah ketibaan kira-kira 27.3 juta pelancong asing sepanjang tahun ini dengan jangkaan pendapatan yang diperolehi berjumlah RM102.7 bilion.

Timbalan Menteri Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya, Khairul Firdaus Akbar Khan berkata, dalam masa sama, kementerian juga menasaskan kehadiran kira-kira 31.4 juta pelancong berkunjung ke negara ini pada tahun 2025 dengan pendapatan pelancongan berjumlah RM125.5 bilion.

"Bagi Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026 pula, kita nasaskan kehadiran 35.6 juta pelancong dengan pendapatan pelancongan RM147.1 bilion.

"Untuk rekod, jumlah ketibaan pelancong pada tahun lalu ialah 20.1 juta orang dengan pendapatan berjumlah RM71.3 bilion," katanya di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Beliau berkata demikian sebagai menjawab soalan Datuk Seri Madius Tangau (**PH-Tuaran**) berhubung nasasan

pulangan pelancongan kepada ekonomi negara selain langkah untuk menarik lebih ramai pelancong asing ke Malaysia.

Menurut Khairul Firdaus, antara program dan langkah yang telah dilaksanakan kerajaan ialah dengan mengumumkan kempen Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026 dan ia merupakan agenda negara dalam pelancongan.

"Bagi menjayakan kempen tersebut, kementerian perlukan sokongan padu kerajaan negeri, penggiat industri pelancongan negara serta sokongan rakyat dalam membuat persiapan rapi menerima kedatangan lebih ramai pelancong asing ke Malaysia.

"Kementerian melalui agensi seliaannya Tourism Malaysia akan meneruskan penyertaan aktif dalam pameran-pameran pelancongan antarabangsa seperti International Tourism Bourse Berlin, World Travel Market London, Arabian Travel Mart Dubai, ASEAN Tourism Forum dan banyak lagi merangkumi pasaran utama seluruh dunia," katanya.



MALAYSIA menjadi pilihan pelancong antarabangsa kerana memiliki budaya dan keunikan yang tersendiri. – GAMBAR HIASAN

KOSMO

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024



KDNK negara adalah lebih baik berbanding negara-negara lain seperti Singapura dan Korea Selatan.

Pertumbuhan 3.7% tetap memuaskan

Kosmo 12/3

Oleh SITI A'ISYAH SUKAIMI

KUALA LUMPUR – Pertumbuhan ekonomi negara mencatatkan 3.7 peratus lebih rendah berbanding unjuran empat peratus pada 2023, namun tetap memuaskan dalam konteks ekonomi dunia yang mencabar.

Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan berkata, pencapaian tersebut didorong oleh pelbagai faktor antaranya pertumbuhan perdagangan yang lebih perlahan.

"Tabung Kewangan Antarabangsa (IMF) pada Januari 2023 menganggarkan pertumbuhan perdagangan global pada tahap 2.4 peratus, tetapi akhirnya mencapai hanya 0.4 peratus.

"Selain itu, pencapaian Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) 2023 juga adalah kesan asas per-

tumbuhan tinggi pada 2022 sebanyak 8.7 peratus susulan asas ekonomi lebih rendah pada 2021 akibat penularan Covid-19," katanya pada penggulangan perbahasan Titah Diraja di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

Bellau berkata, KDNK Malaysia iaitu 3.7 peratus yang telah dicapai adalah lebih baik berbanding negara seperti Singapura (1.1 peratus), Thailand (1.9 peratus), Amerika Syarikat (2.5 peratus), United Kingdom (0.1 peratus) dan Korea Selatan (1.4 peratus).

"Asas ekonomi pada suku keempat 2023 juga semakin kukuh dan momentum tersebut dijangka memacu pertumbuhan lebih kukuh pada 2024.

"Kadar pengangguran telah turun 3.3 peratus pada suku keempat 2023, selaras dengan tahap sebelum Covid-19. Malah,

kadar inflasi juga turun 1.6 peratus pada suku keempat 2023, berbanding dua peratus pada suku ketiga antara terendah di Asia.

"Selain itu, prestasi eksport yang menunjukkan pemulihan pada Januari lalu dengan peningkatan 8.7 peratus selepas menguncup selama 10 bulan sebelumnya," katanya.

Katanya, peningkatan Kadar Dasar Semalaman (OPR) yang lebih rendah berbanding negara lain, iaitu pada tiga peratus untuk kali kelima berturut-turut antara sebab utama ringgit menurun.

Jelasnya, matlamat Jawatankuasa Dasar Monetari, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) dalam menentukan kadar OPR bertujuan menstabilkan harga dan memastikan pertumbuhan ekonomi mampan, bukannya untuk mengawal kadar pertukaran ringgit.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024

RM800 juta kerugian keseluruhan dicatatkan akibat banjir tahun lalu

Kuala Lumpur: Jumlah kerugian keseluruhan akibat banjir tahun lalu bernilai RM800 juta bersamaan 0.04 peratus berbanding Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) nominal.

Ketua Perangkawan Malaysia Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Uzir Mahidin berkata, daripada jumlah itu, kerugian membabitkan tempat kediaman adalah sebanyak

RM168.3 juta, kenderaan (RM22.3 juta), pembuatan (RM10.3 juta), premis perniagaan (RM53.2 juta), pertanian (RM120.6 juta) serta aset awam dan infrastruktur sebanyak RM380.7 juta.

Dari segi tempat kediaman, beliau berkata, Johor mencatatkan kerugian tertinggi berjumlah RM121.9 juta, diikuti Kelantan RM15.4 juta dan Sa-

bah RM11.0 juta.

"Bagi Johor, daerah yang mencatatkan kerugian tertinggi adalah Batu Pahat dengan RM89.2 juta, diikuti Segamat (RM18.3 juta) dan Muar sebanyak RM7.1 juta.

"Di Kelantan, Pasir Mas menjadi daerah tertinggi bagi kerugian tempat kediaman sebanyak RM11.5 juta, diikuti Tanah Merah (RM1.3 juta) dan Tumpat

sebanyak RM1 juta.

"Seterusnya, Kota Marudu dan Pitas merekodkan kerugian tertinggi bagi Sabah, masing-masing berjumlah RM4.8 juta, diikuti daerah Kudat dan Telupid iaitu sebanyak RM400,000," katanya dalam satu kenyataan semalam.

Bagi kerugian kenderaan pula, katanya tiga negeri yang mencatatkan

kerugian tertinggi adalah Johor dengan RM15.9 juta, diikuti Selangor (RM1.8 juta) dan Sabah, RM1.6 juta.

"Daerah mencatatkan kerugian tertinggi bagi kerosakan kenderaan di Johor adalah Batu Pahat iaitu RM12.3 juta, diikuti Segamat (RM1.2 juta) dan Muar RM1.1 juta.

"Kawasan Petaling di Selangor mencatatkan kero-

sakan kenderaan tertinggi berjumlah RM1.8 juta, sementara daerah selebihnya mengalami kerugian kurang daripada RM100,000.

"Daerah Kota Marudu merekodkan kerugian tertinggi bagi Sabah dengan mencatatkan RM1.2 juta, diikuti oleh Pitas (RM300,000) dan Kudat sebanyak RM100,000," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh:1.2...MAR...2024



ALEXANDER (kiri) bersama Saarani merasmikan Pembukaan Seksyen 11 Lebuhraya Persisiran Pantai Barat (WCE) Persimpangan Bertingkat Taiping Selatan ke Persimpangan Beruas. - Gambar NSTP/L MANIMARAN

Tol percuma WCE selama dua bulan HM 12/3

Taiping: Pengguna Lebuhraya Pesisir Pantai Barat (WCE) dari Taiping ke Beruas menikmati tol percuma selama dua bulan bermula tengah malam semalam sehingga 11 Mei depan.

Menteri Kerja Raya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi berkata, laluan baru secara percuma itu sempena Ramadan dan Aidilfitri.

Beliau mengumumkan perkara itu ketika merasmikan Seksyen 11, Persimpangan Bertingkat Taiping Selatan ke Persimpangan Beruas, WCE yang dibuka bermula 12.01 tengah malam semalam.

"Pembukaan malam ini (semalam) melengkapkan keseluruhan bahagian WCE di Perak yang melibatkan sebanyak empat pakej jajaran iaitu Seksyen 8, 9, 10 dan 11.

"Kita berterima kasih pihak konsesi WCE dan Lembaga Lebuhraya Mala-

ysia (LLM) untuk pemberian tol percuma selama dua bulan sempena Ramadan dan Aidilfitri ini yang mana ia juga adalah permintaan daripada Menteri Besar Perak (Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad).

"Pemberian tol percuma ini berbeza daripada tol di tempat lain iaitu sehingga dua bulan kerana mengambil kira ketibaan Ramadan dan musim perayaan Aidilfitri lazim dirayakan lebih panjang," katanya.

Selain Saarani turut hadir ialah Ketua Setiausaha KKR, Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad.

Laluan WCE Seksyen 11 yang dibuka kali ini melibatkan jajaran sepanjang 35.5 kilometer (km) dengan kos pembinaan RM422 juta menghubungkan pengguna secara terus dari Lebuhraya PLUS di Plaza Tol Changkat Jering ke Beruas.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024...

Tol percuma 2 bulan di WCE mulai hari ini

Laluan percuma dari Taiping ke Beruas sempena Ramadan dan Aidilfitri

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Taiping: Lebuhraya Pesisir Pantai Barat (WCE) dari Taiping ke Beruas boleh digunakan secara percuma selama dua bulan bermula hari ini sehingga 11 Mei ini.

Menteri Kerja Raya, Datuk Seri Alexander Nanta Linggi, berkata tol percuma diberikan kepada pengguna yang memasuki lebuhraya itu dari Plaza Tol Taiping Selatan, Plaza Tol Trong dan Plaza Tol Beruas di kedua-dua arah secara percuma itu juga bersempena Ramadan dan Aidilfitri bulan depan.

Beliau mengumumkan perkara itu ketika merasmikan Seksyen 11, Persimpangan Bertingkat Taiping Selatan ke Persimpangan Beruas, WCE yang akan dibuka bermula hari ini.

Katanya, Seksyen 11 melengkapkan keseluruhan bahagian WCE di Perak yang membabitkan empat pakej jajaran iaitu Seksyen 8, 9, 10 dan 11.

"Terima kasih kepada pihak konsesi dan Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia (LLM) kerana bersetuju supaya tol diberi secara percuma selama dua bulan di laluan yang difahamkan menelan belanja sebanyak RM422 juta ini.

"Pembukaan ini adalah tepat

pada masanya memandangkan kita akan menyambut Ramadan esok (hari ini) dan Aidilfitri tidak lama lagi, tentunya laluan ini memberikan alternatif dinantikan. Kadar tol yang dikenakan selepas ini ialah 16 sen bagi satu kilometer," katanya kepada pemberita pada majlis pembukaan laluan berkenaan di sini semalam.

Yang hadir sama, Menteri Besar Perak, Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad dan Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian itu, Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad.

Laluan WCE Seksyen 11 yang dibuka semalam membabitkan jajaran 35.5 kilometer (km) dengan kos RM422 juta menghubungkan pengguna dengan Lebuhraya Utara Selatan di Plaza Tol Changkat Jering ke Beruas.

Laluan itu dapat menjimatkan masa perjalanan dari Changkat Jering ke Beruas kepada 20 minit berbanding 55 minit dengan laluan sedia ada.

Babit kos lebih RM5 bilion

WCE sepanjang 233km dari Banting, Selangor ke Taiping mula dibina pada 2014 menelan kos lebih RM5 bilion dengan RM1.9 bilion kos bagi pembinaan jajaran di Perak, manakala RM3.1 bilion jajaran di Selangor.

Nanta dalam ucapannya berkata, kerajaan melalui Kementerian Kerja Raya (KKR), Jabatan Kerja Raya (JKR) dan LLM sentiasa membuat kajian aliran trafik berdasarkan kapasiti sedia ada berbanding bilangan kenderaan di jalan raya diikuti dengan perancangan dan tindakan penambahbaikan untuk mengurangkan kesesakan terutama ketika waktu puncak, musim perayaan dan cuti persekolahan.

Lebuhraya WCE menurut be-

liau, adalah satu daripada hasil kajian dijalankan dan diharapkan menjadi pilihan laluan alternatif kepada laluan sedia ada dari Lembah Klang ke utara terutama bagi penduduk Pesisiran Pantai Barat Semenanjung Malaysia serta ke Pantai Barat dan Utara Semenanjung.

Beliau turut menyarankan rangkaian logistik bagi kenderaan berat supaya menjadikan laluan itu sebagai pilihan terutama yang menghala ke Pelabuhan Lumut, Pelabuhan Teluk Intan dan Pelabuhan Klang bagi mengelakkan laluan mendaki atau berbukit, di samping mengoptimumkan kos operasi serta dapat membantu mengurangkan kesesakan lalu lintas.

Sementara itu, mengulas mengenai perjanjian konsesi Lebuhraya West Ipoh Span Expressway (WISE) menghubungkan Gopeng ke Kuala Kangsar sejauh 60km sebagai alternatif kepada laluan Terowong Menora di Lebuhraya Utara Selatan (PLUS), beliau berkata, ia dijangka ditandatangani seawal pertengahan tahun ini.

Menurutnya, draf awal perjanjian dan lain-lain hal berkaitan konsesi lebuhraya itu kini masih pada peringkat penelitian Unit Kerjasama Awam Swasta (UKAS) Jabatan Perdana Menteri (JPM).

"Saya sudah berbincang dengan Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Kerja Raya (Datuk Seri Hasnol Zam Zam Ahmad) untuk pastikan ia (tandatangan perjanjian konsesi) pada pertengahan tahun ini untuk kita tetapkan projek berjalan.

"Jika tahun ini kita tandatangan perjanjian, sudah semestinya kita minta ia (pembinaan WISE) dipercepatkan memandangkan banyak kerja lain juga perlu dibuat," katanya.



Nanta bersama Saarani pada majlis pembukaan Lebuhraya Pesisir Pantai Barat di Taiping, semalam. (Foto L Manimaran/B)



Sidang Dewan Rakyat

Pertumbuhan ekonomi 3.7 peratus tetap memuaskan

Asas ekonomi suku keempat 2023 semakin kukuh dijangka pacu pencapaian lebih baik tahun ini

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Kuala Lumpur: Pertumbuhan ekonomi lebih rendah iaitu 3.7 peratus berbanding unjuran empat peratus pada 2023, tetap memuaskan dalam konteks ekonomi dunia yang sangat mencabar.

Menteri Kewangan II, Datuk Seri Amir Hamzah Azizan, berkata ia didorong pertumbuhan perdagangan global lebih perlahan iaitu 0.4 peratus, berbanding sasaran 2.4 peratus oleh Tabung Kewangan Antarabangsa (IMF).

Beliau berkata, pencapaian Kewangan Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) 2023 juga adalah kesan asas pertumbuhan tinggi pada

2022, sebanyak 8.7 peratus susulan asas ekonomi lebih rendah 2021 akibat penularan COVID-19.

Bagaimanapun, katanya, KDNK Malaysia 3.7 peratus yang dicapai adalah lebih baik berbanding Singapura (1.1 peratus), Thailand (1.9 peratus), Amerika Syarikat (2.5 peratus), United Kingdom (0.1 peratus) dan Korea Selatan (1.4 peratus).

"Asas ekonomi pada suku keempat 2023 juga semakin kukuh dan momentum itu dijangka memacu pertumbuhan lebih kukuh tahun ini, dengan kadar pengangguran turun kepada 3.3 peratus bagi tempoh berkenaan, selaras tahap sebelum COVID-19.

"Kadar inflasi menurun ke 1.6 peratus pada suku keempat 2023, berbanding dua peratus pada suku ketiga iaitu antara terendah di Asia, selain prestasi eksport menunjukkan pemulihan pada Januari lalu dengan peningkatan 8.7 peratus selepas menguncup selama 10 bulan sebelumnya.

"Indeks Pengurus Pembelian (PMI) Pembuatan S&P meningkat ke 49.5 pada Februari lalu, iaitu tertinggi sejak September 2022, sebagai tanda awal pemu-

lian sektor pembuatan

"Prospek pelaburan berada pada tahap sangat baik. Pelaburan diluluskan meraih RM329.5 bilion pada 2023, iaitu pencapaian tertinggi dalam sejarah negara. Usaha terus ditingkatkan bagi memudah cara perniagaan dan menyegerakan pelaksanaan pelaburan bagi memacu pertumbuhan tahun ini.

"Keyakinan pelabur antara-bangsa juga terus dicerminkan dalam lawatan Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim ke Australia baru-baru ini, dengan minat pelaburan daripada syarikat negara berkenaan bernilai RM24.5 bilion," katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian ketika pengumuman perbincangan Titah Diraja bagi kementeriaannya di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Amir Hamzah berkata, ekonomi negara bagi tahun ini dijangka mampu berkembang antara empat hingga lima peratus dengan sasaran itu disokong perbelanjaan sektor swasta yang kukuh.

"Ia akan disokong pendekatan fiskal mengembang yang diambil dalam Belanjawan 2024 membatikan jumlah peruntukan



Amir Hamzah ketika sesi pengumuman Titah Diraja pada Persidangan Dewan Rakyat, semalam. (Foto BERNAMA)

RM393.8 bilion," katanya.

Pertumbuhan mampan

Sementara itu, Amir Hamzah berkata, peningkatan Kadar Dasar Semalaman (OPR) lebih rendah berbanding negara lain, iaitu kekal pada tiga peratus untuk kali kelima berturut-turut adalah antara punca utama ringgit menurun.

Malah, katanya, matlamat utama Jawatankuasa Dasar Monetari, Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) dalam menentukan kadar OPR bertujuan menstabilkan harga dan memastikan pertumbuhan ekonomi mampan, bukannya untuk mengawal kadar pertukaran ringgit.

Beliau berkata, ekonomi negara akan terkesan dan pelbagai pihak, terutama peminjam perlu membayar faedah lebih tinggi, jika OPR dinaikkan untuk mengukuhkan ringgit.

"Perbezaan ketara kadar faedah berbanding Amerika Syarikat (AS) iaitu sebanyak 250 mata asas, mendorong pelabur asing mengalihkan modal mereka ke pasaran yang memberikan pulangan lebih tinggi.

"Sejak Mac 2022, bank pusat AS menaikkan kadar faedah secara mendadak dan agresif. Kadar dasar utama AS asalnya berada dalam julat sifar hingga 0.25 peratus pada Mac 2022, dinaikkan 525 mata asas kepada julat 5.25 hingga 5.5 peratus dalam tempoh 16 bulan.

"Selain itu, negara seperti Filipina, Indonesia, Korea dan India turut memilih meningkatkan kadar dasar utama mereka sebanyak 200 ke 450 mata asas ke paras lebih tinggi berbanding Malaysia," katanya.

Mengenai pengukuhan nilai mata wang, Amir Hamzah berkata, Jawatankuasa Pasaran Kewangan, BNM pada 1 Mac lalu, menyatakan terdapat kesan seramta-merta terhadap aliran pasaran dan peningkatan minat pasaran terhadap ringgit.

Beliau berkata, prestasi ringgit bertambah baik iaitu pada kedudukan kedua berbanding sembilan negara serantau lain, sejak langkah koordinasi antara kerajaan, BNM, syarikat berkaitan kerajaan (GLC) dan syarikat pelaburan kerajaan (GLIC) dilaksanakan.

BERITA HARIAN

Tarikh.....1..2..MAR..2024....

Banjir: Negara rugi RM800j

PETALING JAYA: Bencana banjir yang melanda negara pada tahun lalu mengakibatkan negara kerugian sebanyak RM800 juta dengan Johor catat jumlah tertinggi iaitu RM275 juta.

Menurut Ketua Perangkawan, Datuk Seri Dr. Mohd. Uzir Mahidin, jumlah kerugian itu bersamaan 0.04 peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) nominal, lebih rendah berbanding RM1.0 bilion (0.06 peratus KDNK nominal) pada 2022.

Beliau berkata, kerugian itu membabitkan tempat kediaman berjumlah RM168.3 juta, kenderaan (RM22.3 juta), pembuatan (RM10.3 juta), premis perniagaan (RM53.2 juta), pertanian (RM120.6 juta) dan aset awam dan infrastruktur (RM380.7 juta).

"Dari segi tempat kediaman, Johor mencatatkan kerugian tertinggi berjumlah RM121.9 juta, diikuti Kelantan

(RM15.4 juta) dan Sabah (RM11.0 juta). Bagi negeri Johor, daerah yang mencatatkan kerugian tertinggi adalah Batu Pahat (RM89.2 juta), diikuti Segamat (RM18.3 juta) dan Muar (RM7.1 juta).

"Di Kelantan, Pasir Mas merupakan daerah tertinggi bagi kerugian tempat kediaman sebanyak RM11.5 juta, diikuti Tanah Merah (RM1.3 juta) dan Tumpat (RM1.0 juta).

"Seterusnya, daerah Kota Marudu dan Pitas merekodkan kerugian tertinggi bagi negeri Sabah masing-masing berjumlah RM4.8 juta, diikuti Kudat dan Telupid, masing-masing merekodkan kerugian RM0.4 juta," katanya dalam kenyataan, semalam.

Mohd. Uzir berkata, terdapat tiga negeri mencatatkan kerugian tertinggi bagi kenderaan iaitu Johor sebanyak RM15.9 juta, Selangor (RM1.8 juta) dan Sabah (RM1.6 juta).

UTUSAN MALAYSIA

Tarikh:1.2.MAR.2024.....

Ramadan preparations in full swing nationwide

KUALA LUMPUR: Many Muslims are visiting supermarkets and shopping centres nationwide to purchase essential items, including groceries, to make preparations for the month of Ramadan.

Tents have also been set up at Ramadan bazaar sites for business activities.

In Kuala Lumpur, Nora Zulkifli, 31, a daycare teacher, when met at a supermarket in Ampang, said she was buying kitchen supplies as she did not want to be out in the heat with the children during the fasting month.

"My kids are still young. I worry that they might fall sick or suffer heatstroke if I bring them with me."

"At the same time, I need to ensure that there is sufficient food for them in case they are unable to fast."

Several locations around Kampung Pandan and Kampung Bharu, which are known for their Ramadan bazaars, have geared up for the start of the fasting month.

In Selangor, many Ramadan bazaar stalls have already been set up around the Selangor State Development Corporation Complex.

Selangor Zakat Board CEO Ahmad Fadhill Hassan said for the Symbolic Aid Distribution Programme, the board has appointed 2,778 assistant *Amil Fitrah* (tithe collectors) at mosques and supermarkets in the state to facilitate Muslims to fulfil their *zakat* obligations.

He said the board would keep 18 branches in the state open seven days a week, including public holidays, throughout Ramadan.

In Negeri Sembilan, state tradition *mantai*, sees the community slaughter and distribute meat a day before Ramadan starts.

Nurulazma Shafiqah Khairul Azhar, 33 said the tradition of buying *mantai* meat every Ramadan evokes memories of her childhood.



A shopper at a supermarket in Kuala Lumpur selecting dates, which are considered a staple during Ramadan. — **AMIRUL SYAFIQ/THESUN**

TS 12/3

"It has become customary for me to buy meat before Ramadan begins. It's always exciting to see people in the village start the *mantai* tradition, which gets me excited to welcome the fasting month."

In Perak, Masjid India Muslim Ipoh in Jalan Seenivasagam will continue its annual tradition of preparing *bubur lambuk* throughout Ramadan to be distributed to the public as an *iftar* meal.

What makes it unique is that the mosque is the only one providing mutton *bubur lambuk* made with over 16 different spices,

and has maintained its recipe for the past 80 years.

Mosque secretary Sirrazuthin Mohamed Meerasa said it will prepare *bubur lambuk* every day, alternating between *bubur nasi* (rice porridge) and mutton *bubur lambuk*.

"On the first day of Ramadan, we will start cooking as early as 8am in the mosque kitchen, expecting it to be ready by around 1pm for packing and distribution to the public. Distribution of *bubur lambuk* will begin at 4.30pm each day, and it is for everyone."

— Bernama

THE SUN

12 MAR 2024

Tarikh:

'Get ready for rise in highway traffic' 7512/3

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Highway Authority has instructed all highway concessionaires to make thorough preparations to ensure that highway users have comfortable, safe and smooth travel experiences throughout Ramadan, especially during peak hours.

Its director-general Datuk Sazali Harun said in a statement that the authority anticipates an increase in traffic volume on tolled highways nationwide during the fasting month, which begins today.

"Among the initiatives that must be implemented are rescheduling the activation time of tidal lanes or smart lanes in line with changes in working hours, and ensuring that all facilities provided at rest and service areas, lay-bys and toll plazas are in good condition, clean and have sufficient water supply."

He urged highway concessionaires to consider the changes in commuting hours throughout Ramadan when implementing lane closures for maintenance works.

"They should enhance cooperation with police to facilitate traffic movement, especially at critical locations such as at traffic lights after highway exits to prevent traffic overflow," Sazali said after a site visit to observe the planning and actions taken by Anih Berhad to reduce congestion on the Kuala Lumpur-Karak Expressway.

Highway users can contact the authority's Traffic Management Centre at 1-800-88-7752 for information on traffic conditions or to get help. - Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 12 MAR 2024