



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 13 MEI 2024 (ISNIN)

LAIN-LAIN PBT

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Soaring high with small aircraft

Remote-controlled aviation games draws 100 fans to Dataran PJ

MBPJ
5/13/15



Demonstration of a remote-controlled paramotor during PJ Fun Fly 2024 at Dataran Petaling Jaya. — Photos: AZMAN GHANI/The Star

THE atmosphere was buzzing with excitement as visitors flocked to the PJ Fun Fly programme at Section 52 in Petaling Jaya, Selangor.

The event, which is in its second year, drew enthusiasts and spectators to experience the thrill of remote-controlled (RC) aviation.

Event coordinator Rozek Abd Rashid said the programme attracted not only locals but also visitors from around Selangor.

"This is a good platform to help expose RC aviation to the local community."

"It also shines a spotlight on Dataran Petaling Jaya as a hub for sports tourism," he said.

Building on last year's interactive concept, PJ Fun Fly featured a diverse array of activities such as night fly, flight simulator games, demonstrations and exhibitions.

The six games included Spot

Landing Plane, Plane Limbo Rock, Spot Landing Helicopter, Helicopter Balloon Pop-up, Spot Landing Paramotor and night fly.

PJ Fun Fly was organised by Petaling Jaya City Council (MBPJ) through its Culture, Arts and Tourism Division with the support of Aero RC.

Rozek said visitors were exposed to several types of RC aircraft such as plane, helicopter and paramotor.

With close to 100 participants, this year's turnout showed an increase, underscoring the growing popularity of RC aviation.

Nevertheless, Rozek said spectators were only allowed to play with simulators.

"Due to safety issues, only operators and experts were allowed to participate in RC aviation as it involves specialised skills and training," he added.

By RACHANAH SUGUMARAN



Rozek (left) learning about models used during the event.



An expert testing out an RC model before the event starts.



A child taking a look at the RC planes available. (Right) Children playing simulator games at the event.





Residents will only have to pay a token sum to use the facility.



Lim (sixth from left, in red vest) and Soh (in grey shirt) along with JPKKP committee members at the new centre.

Story and photos by LEW GUAN XI
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RESIDENTS can avail themselves of various services and activities at the Jinjang Utara Community Centre from next month.

Kepong MP Lim Lip Eng, who launched the centre, said all the services and activities would be free except for a few, where the organisers need to pay a token sum for the use of electricity and expenses to keep the place clean.

"The token sum will only apply to programmes that last a whole day or more and events with large crowds.

"The price will also depend on the scale of the events," he said, adding that the building belonged to Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL).

Among the services provided

Community centre set up for Jinjang new villagers

Free legal consultation, taekwondo classes to be organised there

include a townhall session every Saturday from 10am to 1pm, where either Lim or Kampung Baru Jinjang Federal Village Development and Security Committee (JPKKP) chairman Raymond Soh would be present to assist the public.

"One of the services is signing relevant documents to be submitted to government agencies.

"We will also listen to the public and help them resolve any problems they may face," he added.

Lim said on the last Saturday of each month, from 10am to 1pm, there would be free legal consultation where two to three lawyers would be present.

"The consultation sessions will be open to both citizens and

non-citizens," he said, adding that both the townhall and legal consultation sessions would not be available on public holidays.

Free taekwondo classes will be available every Saturday from 6pm to 7pm to promote a healthy lifestyle.

Lim also encouraged individuals and groups to approach his team or the Kampung Baru

Jinjang JPKKP to organise events at the community centre.

He invited the public to suggest community-based activities suitable for senior citizens.

"Malaysia is slowly moving towards becoming an ageing nation, so it will be good to come together and generate ideas to improve the lives of senior citizens," he added.

Regular cleaning a must for high-rise water tanks

By GRACE CHEN
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Rust, dirt inside structures could result in murky water and health risks, experts warn

A VIDEO showing slimy muck at the bottom of a drained water storage tank in a high-rise building highlights how important it is to clean the facility regularly.

The video revealed rusty panels and workers handling thick brown sludge that had settled at the bottom of the water tank.

A voiceover said drinking water from this tank might make people sick.

Layers of rust had accumulated at pipe openings, wall panels and brackets inside the tank.

"Is this the kind of quality we are getting for our drinking water?" was one of the comments that greeted the video.

It also got the attention of Tanjung Aru assemblyman Datuk Junz Wong from Sabah who posted it on his social media page.

"Many water tanks are in similar condition.

"Let's hope the relevant authorities can take the necessary action," he wrote.

Mammoth cleaning effort

When contacted, Sevenstar Water Tank Solution managing director Khairul Ariff Othaman confirmed uploading the video on April 19.

Preferring not to divulge the name of the high-rise other than the fact that it was somewhere in Ampang, Selangor, Khairul said his company had been commissioned by the property's management to refurbish the water tank.

"It was a water storage facility for a residential-cum-commercial high-rise building.

"The sludge seen on the video had built up over the past 25 years," said Khairul.

He explained that it was the result of sedimentation as well as rust coming from the metal pipes, suction tank and steel panels.

Works involved scrubbing the rusted parts, cleaning, changing the interior bracket and angles and application of anti-rust solution, finished with protective food-grade coating.

The cleaning and refurbishment of the 158 cubic metre tank cost about RM30,000, said Khairul.

"I put up the post to raise awareness of the importance of regular maintenance, as the water, together with the rust and dirt, will be going into our bodies," he said.

Khairul said hospitals usually showed the most diligence when it came to regular cleaning of water storage tanks.

"The ratio of landed properties calling for washing services from my company in a year is one out of 10. For condominiums, it is four out of 10.

"Most times, management will only react when they receive complaints of murky water coming from taps," he said.

Regular washing, inspection and maintenance of water stor-



(Above) Cleaning work being carried out on a fibreglass-reinforced plastic tank. (Inset) A still from the viral video of sludge found at the bottom of a water tank.



(Left) Water storage tank being constructed and (right) dismantled.

age tanks were an important component in building property management but was often overlooked, said a joint management body (JMB) member of a condominium in Kuala Lumpur.

"The tank is usually located on the rooftop so it is very much a case of 'out of sight, out of mind'.

"Usually, action is only taken when there is a leak," he said.

The JMB member, who did not want to be named, said the cleaning and maintenance of water tanks should come under some form of policing by government bodies.

"It should not be left entirely to JMBs or management corporations (MCs)."

Ideally, he said, checking should be done every 12 months, while old steel tanks should have their interiors lined with thermoplastic polymer (HDPE) to prevent drinking water from coming into contact with rust.

He also recommends metals pipes be changed to ones made from HDPE as they were rust-proof.

When contacted, Selangor housing and culture committee chairman Borhan Aman Shah

said responsibility for water storage tanks in housing areas rested with property developers during the construction phase and subsequently, the JMB or MC after completion.

He said under Strata Management Act 2013 (Act 757), JMBs or MCs were responsible for the management, maintenance and administration of common property, which might include water storage tanks in housing areas.

Clean water supply

Association of Water and Energy Research Malaysia (Awer) president Piarapakaran Subramaniam noted that the only supply of water for residents in high-rises came from storage tanks.

"Landed properties have direct pipes from water companies running to their kitchen taps but high-rise dwellers have no access to fresh water," said Piarapakaran.

As such, residents must alert their respective JMBs or MCs the moment they see murky water from their taps, he said.

"They must appoint a certified

contractor to get the cleaning done.

"The contractor should also be responsible for liaising with water companies as well as inform residents that supply will be disrupted during the maintenance period.

"The tanks should be sterilised before they are cleared for operation," he said.

Piarapakaran said in 2009 and 2010, a few meetings were held between water companies, several building management companies and government agencies on the need for better regulations governing water storage tanks in high-rises.

"It was to discuss mandatory requirements which will serve as rules under National Water Services Commission (SPAN) where water companies will take over the responsibility of maintaining water tanks in high-rises.

"Currently, water bills do not include the cost of such maintenance.

"If this is agreed upon, the maintenance schedule would become more uniform," said Piarapakaran.

So far, he said, no decision had been made on the issue.



The bottom of a water storage tank filled with sedimentation.



Khairul: Sludge in condominium tank was the result of build-up over 25 years.



Piapakaran: High-rise residents have to rely on storage tanks for their water.



Mohd Fazli: Water services act does not cover cleaning of water tanks for private assets.

Suitable materials a must

Piapakaran said unless the water had been contaminated by external materials such as dead animals, rainwater or sewage matter seeping into the tank due to decayed linings, little harm could come from drinking water from a tank that had not been cleaned regularly.

"This is because our water is chlorinated to prevent microorganism growth.

"Consumers generally do not drink from their taps when the water is murky.

"As for rust, it is oxidised iron and does not dissolve in water," he said.

He also said that materials used in the construction of water tanks must be approved by SPAN.

"Sometimes storage tanks are exposed to direct sunlight and we do not want the materials used to leach any chemicals into treated water.

"SPAN has its research and

development division. Therefore, if new materials are available, SPAN should proactively look into its usage in infrastructure development."

Ensuring good water quality

SPAN director of corporate communication and consumer affairs Mohd Fazil Ismail said if a complaint was received regarding water quality, the agency would check at the user's meter point.

"If it involves a high-rise building, then a site visit will be done with the complainant, water operator and JMB or MC.

"They will do an inspection and physical tests for turbidity and chlorine," he said.

However, Water Services Industry Act 2006 (Act 655) does not cover cleaning of water tanks for private assets.

Mohd Fazil said this matter would be addressed under a proposed safe drinking water Bill

under the Health Ministry.

SPAN does have recognised standards for storage cisterns, which vary depending on their material and intended use.

The commission regulates suppliers of products used in the water service industry through registration.

It may, through written notice, suspend or revoke a supplier's registration certificate for non-compliance.

Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) in a statement said water tank cleaning works, inspections as well as maintenance at 64 people's housing projects (PPR) under its purview were carried out every six months by its Community Development and Urban Well-being Department.

"If there is dirt or leakage, cleaning or repair work will be carried out," it said.

The list of active water suppliers can be viewed at www.span.gov.my/category/view/48

Not many keen on using EPF Account 3 2/5

By ZAZALI MUSA
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SOME Employee's Provident Fund (EPF) members below 55 have no plans to utilise the newly introduced Account 3, known as *Akaun Fleksible*.

Senior marketing executive Hizrian Chaming said he would continue with the existing EPF Account 1, renamed *Akaun Persaraan* and Account 2, *Akaun Sejahtera*.

"I do not see any urgency in having EPF Account 3," he told *StarMetro*.

Hizrian said members should be given the option of whether they want the new account or otherwise.

"We should be able to decide whether we want to have two or

three accounts.

"The government should not have imposed the ruling that all members aged below 55 should have three accounts," he said.

Concierge Nurul Fatin Muhammad Bukhri said her parents had advised her not to utilise Account 3.

"Having the flexibility to withdraw money anytime from Account 3 is not a good idea," she said, adding that members might want to withdraw their funds to resolve their financial problems.

However, if not strictly monitored, it could lead to abuses, Nurul Fatin said.

"The money in EPF is our retirement fund and if members continue to withdraw from it, they would end up using their savings well before retirement,"

she added.

Building manager S. Kannan described the introduction of Account 3 as a bad idea as it defeated EPF's objective of safeguarding members' retirement funds.

"EPF should look at ways to further strengthen the dividend payouts for Accounts 1 and 2 instead," he said.

Kannan added it was disturbing that many Malaysians did not have sufficient retirement savings by 55.

He said parents should not depend on their children to look after them when they got older.

It was earlier reported that most Malaysians do not have enough savings for their retirement, with only 33% of active EPF members having basic sav-

ings of RM240,000 as of last year.

Credit administrative executive Ng Fong Lin said she wanted to focus on providing a good education for her children aged three, six and eight.

"Enjoying good yearly dividends from our EPF accounts is more important," she said.

Ng added that even if EPF mandated all members aged below 55 must have three accounts, she would choose not to transfer money to Account 3.

Under a restructuring plan which took effect on May 11, EPF accounts are split from two to three for members aged below 55.

EPF Account 3 gives members below the age of 55 access to funds for short-term financial needs.



Hizrian says he is sticking to EPF Account 1 and 2.



Nurul Fatin worries about the flexibility of EPF withdrawal.



Ng says having good yearly dividends is important



Kannan says the introduction of Account 3 is not a good idea.



Channel 5

Singapore tv

Outrage over loss of Bohol pond

Enquiry on proposed revocation open to stakeholders, set for May 20 at Federal House

**YOUR
RIGHT
to know**

By **BAVANI M**
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STAKEHOLDERS are outraged that land reserved as a retention pond in Kuala Lumpur has been proposed for revocation.

Residents near the Bohol flood retention pond in Seputeh said the proposed cancellation of the reservation went against the government's word not to permit development in environmentally sensitive areas in the city which were prone to floods.

Despite the government's previous commitment to scrap the land deal last year, following opposition from local residents, stakeholders and lawmakers, it is pushing ahead with its plans to revoke the status of the land for public use.

The Attorney General's Chambers published a notice in the Federal Government Gazette on May 8, announcing the proposed revocation of the land reservation for public purposes under Section 64 (2) of the National Land Code (Act 828) for Lot 35309 measuring 24.79ha.

It was signed by the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

Originally designated for flood mitigation and officially gazetted on Nov 4, 2010, *StarMetro* had reported that the government aimed to develop the surrounding area for residential purposes.

An enquiry will be held in relation to the proposed revocation on May 20 from 9am to 4pm at the Federal Territory Office of the director of Lands



Bohol pond in peril again with new development plan

Stakeholders worried over tender notice on KL land office website

By BAVANI M

KUALA Lumpur's second largest flood retention pond is once again under threat as new development plans emerge for the area.

This comes nearly a year after the Federal Government scrapped a similar proposal by the previous administration to allocate the land for private development.

Concerns have resurfaced following a recent tender notice by the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur Lands and Mines Office (PTGWP) which called for bids to



StarMetro's report on April 29.

and Mines on the second floor of Federal House in Jalan Sultan Hishammuddin, Kuala Lumpur.

Any person who desires to object against the proposed revocation may attend.

When contacted, Save Kuala Lumpur (SKL) coalition chairman Datuk M. Ali expressed shock and disappointment at the news.

He affirmed the group's commitment to continuing the fight to preserve the flood retention pond.

"We will seek Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's intervention regarding this issue."

"This contradicts the promises and commitments made by the

government," he said.

Kinrara resident Chin Choong Men described the decision as a nightmare.

"We fought to preserve the pond for decades and finally the government gazetted it over 10 years ago; now they want to degazette it for a housing project."

"We will assemble a team and prepare a press statement to raise our objections," he added.

Kuala Lumpur resident Rishikumar Vadivelu said urgent action was required to halt development plans around the pond, which had been a crucial natural barrier against flash floods.

"We urge the Prime Minister to



Ali says they will ask the PM to intervene in the issue.



Kok is waiting for clarification from the chief secretary.

"Urgent action is required to halt development plans around the pond."

Rishikumar Vadivelu

she said.

StarMetro had revealed the development plans in its April 2 report, "Bohol pond in peril again with new development plan."

It stated that a tender notice by Kuala Lumpur Lands and Mines Office (PTGWP) called for bids to design and upgrade the 63.45ha Bohol flood retention pond for alienation under Section 76 of the National Land Code.

PTGWP published the tender notice on its website, inviting companies to submit proposals for the project, which also includes the construction of housing units.

The tender opened on Jan 26 and closed on Feb 16.

PTGWP sources said a developer had already been identified for the project and the six plots of land totalling 10.85ha were being alienated for the residential project.

When contacted, a PTGWP spokesperson said the revocation announcement of the existing reservation for the Bohol flood retention pond was to allow for the regazettement of the pond with a larger size.

stop this project and all Klang Valley residents to make their voices heard, to preserve this vital ecosystem," said Rishikumar.

He said saving the Bohol flood retention pond could protect their homes and livelihood from future floods.

Seputeh MP Teresa Kok said she was surprised to view the government gazette notice.

She had sought Mohd Zuki's clarification on the matter as the Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur Land Executive Committee chairman.

"I want him to respond; we are still waiting for an answer,"

THE STAR

Tarikh: 13 MAY 2024

June 8 deadline for feedback on amended 2035 Selangor plan

THE public has until June 8 to give feedback on policies and development strategies proposed for the Selangor Structure Plan 2035 (Amendment) draft.

The plan outlines a vision for a "progressive and prosperous state" through 17 strategic directions, 73 policies and 522 initiatives that will steer the Selangor's development over the next decade.

The Selangor Structure Plan 2035 was gazetted on Feb 2, 2017.

Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari said public input was important.

"The policies and principles in Selangor's development must be adapted to current conditions and situations.

"This framework will be followed regardless of who governs the state in the future," he said at the Selangor Structure Plan 2035 (Amendment) draft publicity and public participation

programme at Shah Alam Convention Centre.

Amirudin said the focus moving forward would be to develop suburban areas that would serve as a catalyst to areas yet to be included in development plans.

"The amendment will facilitate development outlined in the First Selangor Plan, including Sabak Bernam Development Area, Selangor Maritime Gateway and Southern Selangor Integrated Regional Development," he said.

Selangor is targeting input from government and private agencies, industry players, residents representatives and non-governmental organisations.

The draft is available for public viewing at Bangunan Darul Ehsan and Bangunan Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah in Shah Alam, and PLANMalaysia headquarters in Putrajaya.

For details, visit <https://www.jpbdselangor.gov.my/>



Amirudin (third from left) looking at the Selangor Structure Plan 2035 (Amendment) draft in Shah Alam with PLANMalaysia Selangor director Khairulzaman Ibrahim (right). With them are PLANMalaysia deputy director-general Md Nazri Abdullah (left) and Selangor Secretary Datuk Haris Kasim.

THE STAR
Tarikh: 13 MAY 2024

RM1.69bil for five flood mitigation projects in Selangor

FEDERAL Government has allocated RM1.69bil to Selangor Drainage and Irrigation Department (DID) to implement five high-priority flood mitigation projects in Klang, Petaling and Sepang districts.

Selangor DID director Nasser Salim said apart from the flood mitigation projects, the department had also implemented projects to stabilise and strengthen riverbanks, upgrade drainage and other projects related to the high tide phenomenon.

"As the implementation of long-term projects will take some time, the state government has also channelled allocations to Selangor DID to implement medium and short-term projects, involving flood hotspot areas," he told Bernama.

Nasser emphasised that cooperation between the federal and state governments was crucial, especially for medium-term projects which focused on 79 hot-spots where floods often occurred, and 354 areas at risk of flooding in Selangor.

Nasser said the department had taken immediate action to carry out repair or drainage work, based on complaints received.

He said Selangor DID also supplied, among other things, 123 mobile water pump units for urgent works, such as in Meru, where stagnant water was reported.

The pumps will help speed up the flow of water out of villages or residential areas, directly to the river and sea.

He also emphasised that several flood warning systems had been developed, including a siren system and sending information via SMS

"Selangor DID conducts annual maintenance work to ensure drainage capacity is at an optimal level before the northeast monsoon season."

Nasser Salim

to warn residents in the event of a flood.

"The department also conducts annual maintenance work to ensure drainage capacity is at an optimal level before the northeast monsoon season," he said.

In the meantime, Nasser said identified causes of flooding were heavy rain, overflowing river water, absence of a working drainage system and the combination of heavy rain and high tide.

He said the state DID had also addressed flooding in Selangor by requiring construction of water catchments based on 100 ARI (Average Recurrence Interval) for each land development application.

He added that the catchment design should also be considered as a key parameter in the preparation of a detailed drainage master plan.



Flood prevention in Selangor has received a boost through a Federal Government allocation while the state DID says that floods are caused by heavy rain, overflowing rivers, poor drainage and a combination of heavy rain and high tide. — Filepic

THE STAR
Tarikh: 13 MAY 2024

New initiatives to raise private consumption growth



Flexible EPF withdrawals, civil servants' pay increase can be major expenditure boosters

ECONOMY

By GANESHWARAN KANA
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PETALING JAYA: Everything comes at a cost and that is set to be the case with the government's decision to allow flexible withdrawals from the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and to raise civil servants' pay since the last raise over more than a decade ago.

Critics have panned the government for introducing the new EPF Account 3, which went live on Saturday, pointing out that it will likely drain old-age savings at a time when about one-third EPF members at age 54 have less than RM10,000 in savings with the retirement fund.

"This would add on to the fiscal deficit faced by Malaysia, where expenditures have far surpassed revenue for the last 26 consecutive years."

Hong Leong Investment Bank Research

HLB ©

Economist Geoffrey Williams estimated that up to RM57bil could be at risk of being taken out of the EPF this year via Account 3, although based on past withdrawals, the amount is likely to be about RM20bil to RM30bil.

As for the civil service pay hike, a brokerage firm recently called it a "deficit widener".

Hong Leong Investment Bank (HLIB) Research said the pay hike translates to 0.5% of the gross domestic product (GDP).

"This would add on to the fiscal deficit faced by Malaysia, where expenditures have far surpassed revenue for the last 26 consecutive years," said the research house.

It is noteworthy that the Finance Ministry's fiscal deficit target for 2024 is 4.3% of GDP, and 3% to 3.5% for 2025.

Williams told *StarBiz* that the federal government's operational expenditure will rise as a result of the pay hike that is expected to come into effect this December.

"It will squeeze the budget unless revenue rises, which would probably be from higher taxes," he said.

Williams said the total civil service emoluments in Budget 2024 were RM95.6bil. A hike of 13% would mean an extra of RM12.4bil, he estimated.

Earlier this month, on Labour Day, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced that civil servants' salaries will be hiked by more than 13%.

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Civil servants pay hike to create about RM19bil in economic impact

> FROM PAGE 1

He later explained that the pay rise for those in the lower category could even be higher between 20% and 40%.

The hike will have to be approved in Parliament via Budget 2025.

Just a week before the announcement, the government unveiled the third EPF account that allows members to withdraw at any time, subject to a minimum sum of RM50.

Starting last Saturday, new EPF contributions will be credited in the following manner: 75% to Akaun Persaraan, 15% to Akaun Sejahtera and 10% to Akaun Fleksibel.

Despite the mixed reactions garnered by both announcements, market observers and analysts have said that the initiatives are major consumption boosters.

HLIB Research, for example, said the new EPF account and the proposed civil servants' pay hike could potentially raise private consumption growth by 1.2 percentage points and 0.5 percentage points, respectively.

"The effect on private consumption and fiscal deficit may potentially be neutralised if fuel subsidies are rationalised – though this remains fluid," HLIB

Research said in a note.

Meanwhile, Williams said the new EPF account could provide a multiplier effect of RM45bil to the economy or 2.5% of GDP, based on normal spending patterns.

Interestingly, he said the high-income groups are most likely to benefit from the withdrawals.

"Since it is also a windfall for them, they might spend almost all of it or around 80%, so the impact would be worth perhaps RM150bil or 8% of GDP but this is not so likely to happen."

On the announced civil servant pay hike, he said it would create about RM19bil in economic impact or around 1% of GDP.

"This is not a windfall; it is a pay increase and will be eaten up by higher living costs," according to Williams.

Williams was also asked whether the civil service pay hike is a needed precursor to remove civil service pension eventually.

In response to this, he said new hires into the civil service will be on EPF and they will have to pay the 11% employee contribution from their salaries.

"If starting salaries rise by 13%, they are only 2% better off.

"So it is a precursor to that possibility but it also raises the salaries of existing civil servants and perhaps there is an idea that

with higher salaries they can pay the 11% extra for EPF without being worse off and so they can all move to EPF. That is a very risky strategy," he said.

Meanwhile, HLIB Research allayed concerns that the EPF withdrawals post-Account 3 will cause liquidity tightening in the local bourse.

This is considering that net EPF contributions will be quite similar to the pre-pandemic average even after accounting for the estimated "opt-in Account 3 withdrawals".

"We reckon that the expected RM25bil (mid-point of estimated range) Akaun Fleksibel withdrawals shouldn't have a significant tightening of liquidity to the local bourse.

"This amount constitutes 2.2% of EPF's RM1.14 trillion asset under management as at end-2023 – of which 42% is allocated to equities, 46% fixed income, 5% money market and 7% others."

HLIB Research highlighted that several business segments will be potential beneficiaries of the two income initiatives, namely, automotive, consumer, financing and property.

"The one-off opt-in transfer to Account 3 could aid in the down payment for automobile purchase and the higher civil servants'

wages would raise their car hire purchase eligibility," it said.

As for the consumer segment, HLIB Research said it is possible that this round of expected EPF withdrawals could see a higher proportion used for discretionary spending as opposed to necessities.

In addition, given the highly liquid nature of Akaun Fleksibel, there is a possibility that consumer spending patterns may turn structurally higher.

On the financing segment, the research house noted that OSK Holdings Bhd's capital financing segment stands to benefit from the civil servants pay rise as this increases their loan eligibility, allowing higher borrowings.

OSK's current penetration in civil servant financing is less than 0.7% of an estimated over 1.7 million civil servants – a large untapped market with few major competitors.

"The rise in civil servants' salaries should augur well for IOI Properties Group Bhd's IOI Resort City township in Putrajaya which has a remaining gross development value of RM14.9bil.

"Being the administrative capital of Malaysia, Putrajaya has a population of 120,000 (2021 estimate), mainly comprising civil servants," said HLIB Research.

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THE proposed 13% increment in salary for civil servants has drawn flak from some quarters. From what I gather on social media, the discontent seems to stem from the perception that civil servants are "time-keepers", clocking in and clocking out every working day without any really challenging or difficult tasks to perform, unlike workers in the private sector.

While I do not deny that there are some black sheep in public service – which workforce doesn't have some? – the majority of our civil service workforce is hard-working, dedicated and committed. The fact that government services continue to progress decades after our independence, relatively unaffected by changes of political masters, is testament to the fact that our civil service is built on a solid foundation and

Hard-earned dues

prioritises serving mainly the citizenry.

The number of applicants for civil service positions always far outnumber the vacancies available. The interviews conducted are stringent and candidates may also have to sit for tests. In addition, throughout their career there are intermittent in-service exams to sit for and pass before promotions or upgrading in salary scales.

So it is not like once in, your job is secure for life. Or, as some like to proclaim: A government job is like an iron bowl of income, solid and unbreakable. That is not true, as there are adequate provisions in the Public Officers (Conduct and Discipline) Regulations 1993

to deal with non-performing civil servants.

The poor perception the public may have of the civil service could be due to the fact that its achievements are normally taken for granted.

If you are satisfied with your treatment at a public hospital, it is because our efficient medical teams are working 24/7 behind the scenes. If you are happy with the schools your children are attending, it is because our school administrators and their teaching staff are performing their duties well. If you feel safe and secure in your home and when you are outside, it is because our police and security personnel are doing their jobs diligently.

If you enjoy drives along expressways or rides on public transport, it is because our Transport Ministry and its personnel are fulfilling their key performance indicators. If you have a passport and enjoy travelling overseas, it is because our Immigration Department officers have worked meticulously to ensure that the little booklet you carry is valid and recognised by the countries you visit.

The list goes on. Over the years, our civil servants have earned verbal recognition because of their hard work, commitment and dedication. Their remuneration, however, has not been revised for more than a decade. It is time they are accorded their hard-earned dues.

LIONG KAM-CHONG
Seremban

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Illegal waste still ending up in M'sia

Importers cannot be traced due to false documentation, say groups

By WANI MUTHIAH
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KLANG: The importers of illegal waste material into Malaysia cannot be traced or located due to fake recipient addresses, false documentation and other underhanded tactics to dupe the authorities, say environmental activists.

Sahabat Alam Malaysia (SAM) senior research officer Mageswari Sangaralingam said, generally, smuggling of garbage into the country involves false declaration of the imported consignment, false description and mislabelling, avoidance of Customs controls, abuse of export licences, as well as concealment within the consignment.

"We do understand that it may be difficult for the authorities to track down the importers, and in certain cases, the original companies that are exporting the illegal waste," she added.

According to Mageswari, resi-

dual waste, which is generally scrap waste that cannot be recycled, is often dumped in open areas or burnt.

She said during field investigations, SAM had discovered shredded plastics, wires and discards from ewaste dumped in agriculture and remote areas.

Hence, she said when the importers, exporters, buyers and sellers as well as the freight forwarders and forwarding agents of these illegal waste materials have been identified, they should be duly dealt with for flouting the law.

"This includes initiating legal action and blacklisting the companies as they should be held accountable for the criminal act.

"For this to happen, there needs to be comprehensive rules and guidelines to assist in the prosecution of all those responsible for committing the crime," Mageswari added.

Recently, the Selangor Environ-

ment Department (DOE) busted 29 containers docked at Westport filled with ewaste, plastic waste and other varieties of scrap.

Selangor DOE director Nor Aziah Jaafar said although the department carries out stringent regular inspections, trash still made its way to the country.

She said the recipient addresses on the containers were all fake, which made it difficult to identify the culprits sneaking in potentially toxic waste into Malaysia.

According to her, the companies importing the trash are either foreign-owned or local companies with foreign investors.

Dr Mohd Yusoff Ishak from Universiti Putra Malaysia's Faculty of Forestry and Environment said the dumping of waste, especially e-waste into Malaysia, will be disastrous to the environment.

He said companies unscrupulously importing waste into Malaysia are most likely employ-

ing low-income earners who do not know how to handle and manage such materials.

"This poses serious threats to the workers, neighbouring communities and public health in general.

"Improper disposal would see the waste ending up in landfills, where residue of toxic chemicals will impact the air, soil, water and ultimately, human health," he said.

In regards to the fake recipient addresses on the containers, Mohd Yusoff said serious measures must be initiated to ensure every container coming into Malaysian ports has valid ownership and recipients.

Meanwhile, Greenpeace South-East Asia regional campaign strategist Heng Kiah Chun said despite ratifying the Basel Ban Amendment (under the Basel Convention) to combat waste trafficking, Malaysia continues to face the bane of illegal dumping.

(The Basel Convention is an international treaty formulated to prevent the irresponsible transboundary movement of hazardous waste.)

"The next Global Plastic Treaty negotiation meeting will take place in Busan, South Korea, in November 2024.

"The Malaysian government must champion for stronger policies and not allow the same weak compromises.

"South-East Asia and Malaysia should no longer be dumping grounds," he said.

Trash and waste material have been making their way into this region after China, which was the world's biggest importer of waste plastic, banned waste products from entering the country in 2018.

China's move to ban the import of waste material resulted in the garbage, from developed countries that do not want to deal with their own trash, making its way here.

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Miles apart but they are always close to the heart A13/5

By HO JIA WEN
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PETALING JAYA: Distance is no barrier to cherishing the bond between mothers and their children on Mothers Day.

Ras Atiqah, 31, has spent many Mothers Day away from her mother since her early teens due to boarding school and later, work commitments.

"As a working adult in my 30s, I try my best to make time to go back to my hometown during special occasions such as Mothers Day," she said.

This year would be a special one for my mum, she said, as her engagement was a day earlier.

She said the gift for her mother this year would be a future son-in-law.

Ras has a close relationship with her mother, particularly since her father passed away seven years ago.

"I spend a lot of time with her, though. I call her almost every day just to update her on my day and ask her about hers," she said.

Ras would drive three hours home to Perak almost every weekend to spend quality time



Dear, though not always near: Ras and mum (left) love spending time together, while Lim says she calls her mum every day when they are apart.

with her mother.

"She has been my pillar of strength, and since I was little, she never clipped my wings and has always been so supportive of everything that I do," she said.

Elaine Lim, a 24-year-old Sarawakian student studying in Kuala Lumpur, is spending her sixth Mothers Day away from home.

Despite being far away, she shows appreciation for her mother every year through gifts such as flowers and cakes.

"This year I will get her eye cream as a gift, as well as her favourite flowers - roses," she said.

One particularly memorable Mothers Day was two years ago when Lim celebrated the special day earlier at home.

"My mother was very happy," she said.

Lim is also very close to her mother and calls her every day.

"My mother is special to me because she's like my best friend, who listens to me every time and knows everything about me," she said.

Wan Adam Zuhair, 27, who works in Singapore's banking industry, is spending his second

Mothers Day away from home.

"I feel sad, but it's inevitable that I'm here. I just hope she understands," he said.

Every year, he gets premium chocolates, flowers with a card, or popcorn to express his appreciation to his mother.

This year is no different, even with the noticeable rise in costs.

"I am very close to my mum as she took care of me and supported me my whole life.

"I try to visit her in Kuala Lumpur at least once a month, and I call her often to ask how she's doing," he said.

Rachanah Sugumaran, 24, a university student, said this was the first year her mother would celebrate Mothers Day without any children at home.

"Other years, I will be at home in Ipoh, but this year, I am interning in Kuala Lumpur," she said.

Her four older siblings are working out of state.

Although they are all apart, Rachanah and her siblings will coordinate to give their mother flowers and a cake by delivery.

"If we are in town, we will bring her out for a meal, but this year will be slightly different," she said.

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'Share the burden of working mums'

13/5 - 2w
Nancy: Family Index shows mothers bear too much household responsibility

MELAKA: The Malaysian Family Well-being Index showed a decline in scores for the Family Quality Time Indicator and Work-Family Balance Indicator in 2022 compared with 2019, says Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri.

"Working mothers spend much of their time dealing with demanding daily routines, needing to wake up early to attend to their children and family, working an average of eight to 10 hours daily, returning home in the late afternoon or early

evening, and continuing their duties as a wife and mother at home.

"It is essential to recognise that the responsibility of raising children and managing the household is not solely the mother's duty.

"Husbands must empathise with and value their wives' contributions, as well as actively participate in household chores and childcare," she said.

The Index provides a benchmark of Malaysian family well-being measuring seven domains and 23 indicators.

The seven domains are: Role of Religion and Spiritual Practices, Family and Community Engagement, Family Relationship, Family Safety, Family Health, Housing and Environment, and Family Economy.

Meanwhile, Nancy said the Fifth Malaysian Population and Family Study conducted by the National Population and Family Development Board found that teen discipline issues are among the top three challenges faced by mothers.

"This is followed by children's education and family expenses,"

she said in her speech at the National Mother's Day Celebration 2024 themed 'Thank You, Mother' at the board's family centre in Ayer Keroh yesterday.

Her Majesty Raja Zarith Sofiah, Queen of Malaysia, officiated at the event. Her Majesty bestowed the Mother's Inspiration Award upon Rahamah Mohtar, 61, from Kapar, Selangor, in recognition of her unwavering dedication to caring for her 21-year-old son Ahmad Mujahid Azmi who has cerebral palsy, Bernama reported.

Melaka Chief Minister Datuk

Seri Ab Rauf Yusoh, who was also present, announced that the state government had allocated RM500,000 through the Women Empowerment Programme to incentivise their participation in all development and empowerment programmes in the state.

He said Melaka had set up the Melaka State Women's Shelter within the premises of the State Legislative Assembly Development and Coordination Committee Complex, aligning with efforts to support the community's welfare agenda.

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Gen Z mahu aturan kerja fleksibel



SEIRING dengan peralihan dasar pekerjaan global, Malaysia pada April lepas mengumumkan pekerja kini boleh secara rasmi meminta pengaturan kerja yang fleksibel daripada majikan mereka.

Menteri Sumber Manusia, Steven Sim Chee Keong menjelaskan, pekerja mempunyai hak untuk memohon variasi dalam waktu kerja, hari dan lokasi di bawah Seksyen 60P dan 60Q Akta Pekerjaan 1995.

Majikan bertanggungjawab untuk menjawab permintaan ini dalam tempoh 60 hari dan menyediakan justifikasi bertulis untuk sebarang penafian.

Steven juga berkongsi pandangan tentang Akta Pekerjaan 1995, khususnya menentang Bahagian XIIC, yang menangani pengaturan kerja yang fleksibel.

Secara khususnya, Seksyen 60P (1) akta itu menggariskan hak pekerja untuk memberi petisyen kepada majikan mereka bagi pengaturan kerja yang fleksibel, tertakluk kepada peraturan yang digariskan dalam Bahagian XII atau perjanjian kontrak.

Pengumuman kerajaan itu dibuat sebagai tindak balas kepada peralihan dasar baruan ini di Singapura, yang memberi pekerja pilihan untuk bekerja selama empat hari seminggu, peluang kerja jauh yang meningkat dan penjadualan fleksibel bermula pada Disember 2024.

Mengenai isu tersebut, Setiausaha Kehormat Chartered Management Institute Singapura, Suanny Gouw berkata, kerja jarak jauh kini menjadi kebiasaan dan kebanyakan syarikat telah membuat penambahbaikan dalam amalan mereka untuk membolehkan tempat kerja bukan lagi hanya di pejabat tetapi di mana sahaja anda berada.

"Membenarkan fleksibiliti pekerja untuk memilih di mana dan bila mereka bekerja boleh mengurangkan tekanan dan mampu menyumbang kepada



Pekerja dalam golongan Gen Z kini cukup 'jelas' mengenai keutamaan mereka di tempat kerja iaitu fleksibiliti. Gambar hiasan.

peningkatan produktiviti, dengan membenarkan mereka bekerja asalkan berada pada tahap terbaik.

"Perkara yang penting ialah kerja dapat dilakukan dengan berkesan dan cekap, bukannya dilakukan dalam jangka masa atau persekitaran yang ditetapkan," katanya.

Tambah Suanny, pengaturan kerja fleksibel juga telah menarik lebih ramai wanita untuk masuk semula dan kekal dalam tenaga buruh.

Dengan perniagaan yang menghadapi masalah buruh, wanita kini menjadi sebahagian daripada tenaga kerja.

"Kerajaan Singapura akan memberikan lebih banyak sokongan untuk perniagaan terutamanya wanita untuk menyertai atau kembali menjadi tenaga kerja," jelasnya.

Di Malaysia, perkembangan itu masih diperdebatkan oleh sesetengah majikan yang lebih suka pekerja hadir secara fizikal di tempat kerja.

Justeru mereka perlu meneliti trend global berkenaan, terutama dalam menguruskan pekerja dalam kalangan Gen Z.

Laporan Keadaan Tempat Kerja Global terkini oleh Gallup Pekerja di Asia Selatan 2023 mendapati pekerja di Asia Selatan (termasuk Malaysia) adalah paling terlibat di dunia, tetapi juga mengalami peningkatan tahap tekanan dan kemarahan harian tertinggi di dunia.

Data-data yang perlu dipertimbangkan

Sebanyak 33 peratus pekerja di Asia Selatan terlibat dan berkembang maju, peningkatan sebanyak 7 peratus berbanding angka tahun lepas dan 10 peratus lebih tinggi daripada purata global.

Laporan itu juga telah meninjau seramai 2.2 juta pekerja sejak itu, kira-kira 160,000 setahun, untuk mengetahui perasaan orang ramai tentang pekerjaan dan prospek pekerjaan mereka.

Aspek paling merisaukan daripada tinjauan itu ialah majoriti - 59 peratus pekerja dunia "berhenti senyap-senyap". Ini bermakna lebih separuh menggambarkan

diri mereka sebagai melakukan usaha minimum yang diperlukan, dan merasa terputus hubungan daripada majikan.

Tambahan 18 peratus telah digelar 'kuat berhenti', bermakna mereka mengambil tindakan yang secara langsung membahayakan organisasi dan melemahkan matlamat syarikat.

Satu lagi penyelidikan di United Kingdom (UK) oleh Chartered Management Institute (CMI) menunjukkan kebimbangan tentang kualiti pengurusan, dan kesannya terhadap kehidupan harian pekerja.

Hampir satu pertiga daripada pekerja UK mengatakan mereka telah berhenti kerja kerana budaya tempat kerja yang negatif, menurut tinjauan baharu yang menggariskan risiko pengurus gagal mengekang tingkah laku toksik.

Faktor lain yang dipersoalkan oleh 2,018 pekerja dalam tinjauan itu sebagai sebab untuk meninggalkan pekerjaan pada masa lalu termasuk hubungan negatif dengan pengurus (28 peratus) dan diskriminasi atau gangguan (12 peratus).

Sementara itu, dasar kerja empat hari seminggu dilaksanakan sepenuhnya oleh kebanyakan firma UK dalam percubaan terbesar dunia.

Laporan tersebut dibuat oleh badan pemikir Autonomy dan penyelidik dari University of Cambridge, University of Salford dan Boston College di Amerika Syarikat (AS), mendapati 'banyak faedah penting yang ditemui semasa percubaan awal telah berterusan selama 12 bulan', walaupun mereka menyatakan bahawa ia adalah saiz sampel yang kecil.

Felo CMI, Dr Guna Seelan Rethinam yang menggariskan tujuh kaedah organisasi dapat membolehkan orang ramai memacu perubahan dan inovasi berkata, lebih berwawasan, bermakna, kolaboratif, pendekatan reka bentuk dan pembangunan organisasi anda, lebih baik organisasi

anda.

"Dalam pasaran buruh yang semakin ketat hari ini, reka bentuk dan pembangunan organisasi adalah senjata strategik syarikat.

"Jika anda tidak kerap membayangkan semula dari perspektif orang ramai, organisasi anda akan berjuang untuk berkembang," kata beliau yang merupakan Ketua Acara & Penglibatan Ahli untuk Lembaga Serantau CMI Malaysia, dan pensyarah di Jabatan Pengurusan, Sunway Business School.

Sementara itu, Pengarah Dasar di CMI, Anthony Painter berkata, milenials dan Gen Z kini cukup 'jelas' mengenai keutamaan mereka di tempat kerja.

Tinjauan CMI katanya, mendapati lebih separuh daripada pengurus muda UK - mereka yang berumur di bawah 35 tahun - akan meminta waktu fleksibel dan kenaikan gaji jika mereka dikehendaki bekerja di pejabat lima hari seminggu.

"Data terkini ini memberitahu bahawa jika syarikat tidak bersedia untuk membuat tawaran itu, pekerja berbakat dari semua peringkat umur akan membuat laluan mereka sendiri, memulakan perniagaan mereka sendiri dan mentakrifkan semula kerja yang baik dalam ekonomi moden," tambahnya.

Katanya lagi, ramai anak muda melihat bahawa menjalankan perniagaan mereka sendiri sebagai peluang untuk membina kerjaya yang sesuai dengan gaya hidup, dan bukannya perlu menyesuaikan gaya hidup sekitar kerjaya mereka.

Menurut beliau lagi, mungkin mencari kerja dan maju melalui kerjaya pernah menjadi impian untuk generasi terdahulu, tetapi trend itu tidak lagi menjadi ikutan generasi hari ini.

"Dorongan keusahawanan Gen Z menimbulkan 'beberapa persoalan sukar' untuk perniagaan hari ini," kata Anthony.



STEVEN



Laporan Sinar Harian pada 7 Mei mengenai 'Ragam Pekerja Muda: Manja atau Fleksibel'.

Aplikasi i-Akaun sangat mudah, hanya ambil masa kurang lima minit untuk selesai proses tersebut

Oleh NURATIKAH ATHILYA HASSAN
SHAH ALAM

Orang ramai mula daftar Akaun Fleksibel KWSP

Pencarum Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) tidak menunggu lama untuk memindahkan wang simpanan mereka daripada Akaun Sejahtera ke Akaun Fleksibel selepas dilancarkan pada Ahad.

Tinjauan *Sinar Harian* di media sosial mendapati, rata-rata pencarum sudah mula melakukan proses tersebut secara dalam talian menerusi aplikasi KWSP i-Akaun dan laman sesawang KWSP.

Penyelia khidmat pelanggan, Muhammad Nizam, 38, berkata, proses menggunakan aplikasi i-Akaun sangat mudah dan hanya mengambil masa kurang daripada lima minit untuk selesai.

"Syukur alhamdulillah sebab memang tengah memerlukan wang. Saya harap pelaksanaan Akaun Fleksibel ini diteruskan pada masa akan datang kerana sangat berguna ketika kecemasan.

"Apabila ada potongan sebanyak 10 peratus ke Akaun Fleksibel, ia umpama ada duit simpanan tanpa perlu menggunakan duit daripada gaji yang diperoleh," katanya kepada *Sinar Harian*.

Pekerja swasta, Norazlila Daisin, 40, pula berkata, walaupun keliru pada mulanya berkenaan Akaun Fleksibel ini tetapi selepas membaca arahan yang disediakan di setiap ruang menjadikan proses itu lebih mudah.

Katanya, kerajaan mungkin boleh mempertimbangkan untuk membenarkan pemindahan daripada Akaun Pesaraan ke Akaun Fleksibel kerana tidak semua pencarum mempunyai jumlah wang yang tinggi dalam Akaun Sejahtera.

Seorang lagi pekerja swasta, Mohd Rusdi Rosli, 32, berkata, prosedur yang ditetapkan adalah mesra pelanggan yang mana pencarum boleh membuat keputusan sendiri sama ada mahu melakukan pemindahan wang ke Akaun Fleksibel atau tidak.

Katanya, pencarum perlu bijak dalam menguruskan kewangan dengan baik kerana keadaan ekonomi setiap masa tidak menentu dan ada pasang surutnya.

Bagi operator kilang, Fatin Nor Hidayah Ariffin, 25, penerangan yang jelas di setiap ruang menjadikan proses awal pemindahan wang ke Akaun Fleksibel lebih mudah dan senang difahami.

"Saya berasa sedikit lega sebab dengan ekonomi sekarang mungkin dengan cara ini dapatlah saya selesaikan sedikit sebanyak masalah kewangan yang dihadapi.

"Proses sangat mudah. Dua hingga tiga minit sahaja. Saya bersyukur dengan



MUHAMMAD NIZAM



NORAZLILA



MOHD RUSDI



FATIN NOR HIDAYAH

inisiatif ini, bolehlah (dapat wang) daripada tiada.

"Diharapkan pada masa akan datang kerajaan lebih prihatin dan cakna dengan masalah rakyat kerana tak semua orang ada baki banyak dalam Akaun Sejahtera atau selaraskan kenaikan gaji," katanya.

Bagaimanapun, terdapat beberapa pencarum mendakwa mereka gagal untuk meneruskan prosedur yang ditetapkan apabila kod pengesahan transaksi (TAC) tidak diterima menggunakan aplikasi i-Akaun KWSP.

Sebelum ini, *Sinar Harian* melaporkan, KWSP memperkenalkan Akaun Fleksibel bagi membolehkan ahli mereka mengeluarkan simpanan pada bila-bila masa untuk sebarang tujuan, tertakluk kepada amaun minimum pengeluaran sebanyak RM50.

Menurut kenyataan KWSP, permohonan bagi pengeluaran daripada Akaun Fleksibel boleh dibuat melalui KWSP i-Akaun atau di mana-mana cawangan KWSP di seluruh negara.

Tujuan pemberian pilihan pindahan amaun permulaan ke Akaun Fleksibel adalah bagi membolehkan ahli membuat pengeluaran daripada akaun itu tanpa perlu menunggu caruman baharu.

Amaun yang akan dipindahkan adalah berdasarkan baki Akaun Sejahtera ahli semasa pilihan ini dibuat.

Kaedah pindahan dilakukan mengikut dua pecahan iaitu pertama baki ahli yang

mempunyai simpanan sebanyak RM3,000 dan ke atas dalam Akaun Sejahtera manakala yang kedua baki dalam akaun sama adalah kurang dari RM3,000.

Ahli boleh membuat pilihan pindahan amaun permulaan bermula 12 Mei sehingga 31 Ogos 2024 dan ia hanya boleh dibuat sekali sahaja pada bila-bila masa sepanjang tempoh tersebut serta tidak boleh dibatalkan.

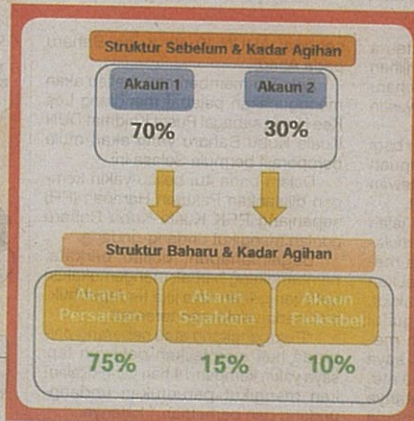
Untuk maklumat lanjut, pencarum boleh melayari www.kwsp.gov.my atau aplikasi KWSP i-Akaun untuk merujuk soalan lazim yang telah disediakan.

Sementara itu, KWSP meletakkan had maksimum pengeluaran wang daripada Akaun Fleksibel secara terus adalah RM250 sahaja sehari.

Menurut paparan maklumat di aplikasi KWSP i-Akaun, ahli yang mahu mengeluarkan wang melebihi RM250 perlu melalui proses *electronic Know-Your-Customer* (e-KYC) secara dalam talian atau menggunakan alternatif lain seperti mengunjungi pejabat KWSP terdekat bagi pengesahan cap jari.

Proses e-KYC atau proses pengesahan identiti yang dilakukan secara elektronik menggunakan teknologi pengesanan wajah di aplikasi KWSP i-Akaun.

KWSP turut menjelaskan, pencarum boleh melakukan pindaan wang ke akaun bank sekali sehari dengan kadar minimum RM50.



Pecahan penstrukturan semula Akaun KWSP.

SINAR HARIAN

Tarikh: 11.3.MAY.2024.....

Rasuah, imej buruk negara

Sinar
13/5



PERSPEKTIF

DR HALIZA ABDUL RAHMAN

Isu rasuah, penyelewengan dan integriti tadbir urus, topik yang mendapat perhatian masyarakat. Bilangan aduan dan rungutan dilaporkan kepada Suruhanjaya Pencegahan Rasuah Malaysia (SPRM) menjadi cerminan serta petunjuk kepada situasi rasuah yang berlaku di negara ini.

Amalan rasuah, konflik kepentingan diri dan tidak telus dalam pengurusan antara faktor Malaysia dianggarkan mengalami kerugian antara RM40 bilion hingga RM60 bilion setiap tahun. Lebih buruk lagi, terdapat kajian menganggarkan Malaysia mengalami kerugian hampir RM3 trilion dalam tempoh 25 tahun. SPRM turut mendedahkan negara kerugian RM277 bilion akibat rasuah dalam tempoh antara 2018 hingga 2023.

Menurut SPRM, kes rasuah melibatkan ketirisan dalam perolehan kerajaan dilihat semakin kritikal dengan 50 peratus membabitkan pegawai kanan agensi kerajaan. Pada 2022 sahaja, SPRM me-

laporkan 323 penjawat awam ditangkap kerana rasuah daripada 909 kes tangkapan secara keseluruhan. Justeru, Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim mengisytiharkan rasuah ancaman utama terhadap negara, lantaran telah membiak dan membarah sejak sekian lama dalam tadbir urus negara.

Transparency International 2020 menganggarkan rasuah boleh bernilai antara 10 hingga 15 peratus daripada nilai sesuatu kontrak, manakala Bank Dunia menganggarkan 20 hingga 30 peratus daripada bajet untuk kontrak tiris. Ia seiring dengan jangkaan bekas Ketua Audit Negara, Tan Sri Ambrin Buang yang menganggarkan lebih 30 peratus nilai projek sektor awam di negara ini hilang akibat salah pengurusan dan rasuah.

Gejala rasuah menjadi antara punca rakyat tidak mendapat perkhidmatan, pengalihan kekayaan tidak seimbang dan ketirisan khazanah negara. Rasuah juga mengakibatkan pembangunan tidak lestari, pencemaran alam sekitar, membantutkan pertumbuhan ekonomi, menghilangkan minat pelabur asing, meningkatkan kos pentadbiran dan urus niaga serta mendorong berlakunya ketidakstabilan politik.

Walaupun pelbagai strategi dilakukan, ia masih berleluasa dan seolah-olah 'gagal' dikecang. Mengapa rasuah masih

“

Usaha memerangi rasuah perlukan komitmen, keberanian dan kerjasama semua pemegang taruh dalam mengamalkan prinsip benci rasuah.”

terus menular? Ketiadaan integriti yang didorong oleh faktor kuasa, peluang dan tekanan telah merasionalkan tindakan melakukan jenayah rasuah. Lebih buruk lagi, ada memberi alasan semua orang melakukan rasuah, malah tanpa segan silu menyatakan mereka mencontohi pimpinan atasan yang turut mengamalkan budaya rasuah.

Selain itu, kekurangan ketara kezazaman politik dalam kalangan wakil rakyat untuk memerangi rasuah secara strategik dan berkesan sehingga ia dianggap perkara biasa, dilihat antara punca utama skor Malaysia dalam Indeks Persepsi Rasuah (CPI) semakin merosot. Menurut Transparency International Malaysia (TI-M), penurunan itu menunjukkan negara menuju ke 'arah yang salah' dalam memerangi rasuah.

Kelengahan organisasi antara punca berlaku rasuah. Oleh itu, penerapan budaya dan amalan anti rasuah dalam organisasi harus dititik beratkan. Kesedaran, amalan dan tindakan berkaitan budaya rasuah dalam kalangan rakyat juga tidak menyeluruh.

Justeru, rakyat Malaysia mesti dididik dan dipasak dengan etika membenci rasuah. Pendedahan dan kesedaran terhadap kepentingan penerapan nilai integriti dalam diri setiap individu perlu diberi perhatian khusus.

Lantaran itu, Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (PBB) menetapkan 9 Disember sebagai Hari Antirasuah Antarabangsa bagi meningkatkan kesedaran masyarakat. Usaha memerangi rasuah perlukan komitmen, keberanian dan kerjasama semua pemegang taruh dalam mengamalkan prinsip benci rasuah.

Kerajaan khususnya menunjukkan komitmen tinggi dalam usaha membantenteras rasuah melalui Strategi Pembantenterasan Rasuah Nasional (NACS) 2024-2028 menerusi peningkatan integriti, ketelusan dan kebertanggungjawaban merentas pelbagai sektor di Malaysia.

* Profesor Madya Dr Haliza Abdul Rahman ialah Ketua Laboratori Belia Dalam Kepimpinan, Politik dan Kewarganegaraan, Institut Pengajian Sains Sosial, Universiti Putra Malaysia

SINAR HARIAN
Tarikh: 11.3 MAY 2024

Penjawat awam rugi RM150,600 terpedaya sindiket 'phone scam'

Johor Bahru: Seorang penjawat awam rugi RM150,600 selepas terpedaya dengan sindiket 'phone scam' Jumaat lalu.

Ketua Polis Daerah Johor Bahru Utara Asisten Komisioner Balveer Singh Mahindar Singh berkata, wanita berusia 46 tahun itu menerima panggilan telefon daripada individu yang memperkenalkan diri sebagai pegawai perkhidmatan penghantar menyatakan kononnya dia mempunyai bungkus mengandungi barangan peribadi.

Beliau berkata, panggi-

lan berkenaan kemudian-nya disambungkan kepada suspek menyamar sebagai pegawai polis menyatakan kononnya dia terbabit dengan pengubahan wang haram dan boleh ditahan.

"Mangsa diminta membuat bayaran dengan menggadaikan barang emas miliknya di kedai pajak gadai bagi menyelesaikan kes terbabit.

"Mangsa kemudian mengikut arahan mereka dan membuat 34 transaksi dalam talian ke empat akaun berlainan dengan jumlah keseluruhan sebanyak RM150,600," katanya.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: 17 3 MAY 2024

Selesaikan masalah tempatan dahulu

UM 13/5 (MPT)

Oleh MOHAMAD ATHIR ISMAIL
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HULU SELANGOR: Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) Kuala Kubu Bharu, Pang Sock Tao mahu mendahulukan penyelesaian masalah tempatan seperti jalan gelap dan rosak serta aduan-aduan lain selepas dipilih sebagai wakil rakyat kawasan itu, semalam.

Menurutnya, aduan-aduan tersebut diterima sepanjang berkempen selama dua minggu pada Pilihan Raya Kecil (PRK) DUN berkenaan dan akan diberi keutamaan sebelum melaksanakan manifestonya.

"Dalam manifesto, saya akan mendahulukan masalah tempatan yang mana perkara kecil walaupun ada aduan yang mungkin bukan projek besar dan sebagainya, tetapi pada saya sekecil-kecil aduan pastinya mempengaruhi kehidupan



PANG Sock Tao menyapa dan menyerahkan bunga teluki kepada penduduk di Pasar Peladang, Kuala Kubu Bharu, Hulu Selangor, semalam. - UTUSAN / M. FIRDAUS M. JOHARI

penduduk setempat.

"Jadi saya akan mengutamakan penyelesaian masalah tempatan seperti lampu jalan raya, longkang. Saya akan bekerjasama dengan Majlis Perbandaran Hulu Selangor (MPHS) dan juga kerajaan negeri untuk selesai-

kan masalah tempatan, bagi saya itu masalah yang amat terdesak," katanya ketika ditemui, semalam.

Beliau ditemui ketika mengedarkan 400 kuntum bunga kepada penduduk di sekitar Rasa dan Pasar Awam Kuala Kubu

Bharu sempena sambutan Hari Ibu dan penghargaan kepada pengundi yang memilihnya sebagai wakil rakyat baharu.

Tambahnya, antara langkah jangka panjang yang menjadi fokus utama beliau adalah untuk menyelesaikan masalah liputan dan capaian internet selain memperbaiki mutu perkhidmatan pengangkutan awam serta menyediakan pengangkutan untuk pelancongan.

"Cadangan saya adalah untuk mewujudkan bas pelancongan pada hujung minggu untuk membawa pelancong mengikuti Jejak-Jejak Pelancongan Kuala Kubu Bharu," ujarnya.

Terdahulu, Sock Tao daripada Pakatan Harapan (PH) yang mewakili Kerajaan Perpaduan diumumkan menang PRK DUN Kuala Kubu Bharu dengan majoriti 3,869 apabila memperoleh 14,000 undi.

Beliau menewaskan calon

PN, Khairul Azhari Saut yang memperoleh 10,151 undi, calon Bebas, Nyau Ke Xin dan Hafizah Zainudin daripada Parti Rakyat Malaysia (PRM) dalam pertembungan empat penjuru.

Dalam pada itu, Sock Tao yang juga Setiausaha Akhbar kepada Menteri Perumahan dan Pembangunan Kerajaan Tempatan, Nga Kor Ming, memberitahu selain isu setempat, beliau juga mahu memastikan projek-projek pembangunan pelbagai skala di kawasannya siap mengikut jadual ditetapkan.

"Sebelum ini menurut laporan daripada Ahli Majlis, pasar ini (Pasar Awam Kuala Kubu Bharu) akan siap pada Julai dan saya mengikut progres baik pulih pasar itu.

"Saya juga akan tinjau untuk memastikan pelaksanaan ataupun projek-projek (di Kuala Kubu Bharu) siap mengikut jadual ditetapkan," jelasnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: ...13 MAY 2024...

Perkeso ada 'rahsia' jejak waris nahas

PUTRAJAYA: Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (Perkeso) memiliki banyak cara 'rahsia' untuk mengenal pasti waris mangsa kemalangan jalan raya.

Perkara tersebut didedahkan oleh Ketua Bahagian Sinergi Pejabat Timbalan Ketua Eksekutif (Operasi), Rahmat Ismail ketika ditemui *Utusan Malaysia* pada satu sesi libat urus di sini.

"Antaranya kami biasa menerima kesemua laporan terperinci nahas jalan raya di seluruh negara setiap hari terus daripada pihak ibu pejabat polis di Bukit Aman sendiri," katanya.

Pada 8 Mei lalu, negara digemparkan dengan insiden pokok tumbang di ibu negara yang mengorbankan seorang pemandu syarikat swasta, Md. Rizal Atan, 47. Kejadian turut menyebabkan seorang pemandu e-hailing, Abdul Hayyi Al Hakimi Nazli, 26, mengalami kecederaan.

Kedua-dua mangsa dilindungi oleh Perkeso kerana mencarum dalam skim ditetapkan dan layak menerima pelbagai faedah atau tuntutan jika mengalami cacat kekal.

Mengulas lanjut, Rahmat berkata, pihaknya berjaya mengenal pasti rekod dua individu itu sejurus menerima maklumat nahas dikemukakan oleh polis pada hari peristiwa tersebut.

"Terima kasih polis dan laporan sebeginitulah yang kami akan terima setiap hari dari seluruh Malaysia sebelum Perkeso melakukan isu semakan silang data ke atas mangsa," katanya.

Selain Bukit Aman ujar beliau, agensi berkenaan turut menerima maklumat daripada pihak hospital, malahan ada masjid menyalurkan rekod kematian ahli kariah mereka.

Walaupun bagaimanapun tegasnya, Perkeso masih kena membuat pemeriksaan teliti dan paling menyedihkannya apabila ada mangsa tiada langsung perlindungan Perkeso.

Ini jelas beliau, banyak melibatkan penunggang p-hailing, mungkin faktor kurang kesedaran untuk mencarum dalam Skim Keselamatan Sosial Pekerjaan Sendiri (SKSPS).

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh:11.3 MAY 2024

Malaysia terlalu jauh ketinggalan dalam AI

Dari muka 1

Bercakap kepada *Utusan Malaysia*, Pensyarah Kanan Seksyen Keselamatan Siber, Institut Teknologi Maklumat Malaysia (MIT) dan Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UnikL), Dr. Shafiza Mohd. Shariff berkata, bagi menyusuri negara-negara maju mengem- bangkan AI, kerajaan perlu mel- abur lebih banyak dalam mem- pertingkatkan penggunaan sistem awan (*cloud*) dan memori Nvidia.

"Untuk penggunaan biasa AI, capaian internet di Malaysia masih memadai. Tetapi untuk pemban- gunan dan penciptaan algoritma AI atau GPT, Malaysia masih jauh

ketinggalan.

"Sudah tentu hasrat kerajaan yang baru berkira-kira mahu me- nerap silibus AI terus menyebab- kan Malaysia di belakang," katanya.

Sebelum ini, Menteri Pendi- kan, Fadhlina Sidek berkata, AI akan diperkenalkan di peringkat sekolah rendah.

Menurut Fadhlina, Kurikulum Persekolahan 2027 menjadikan Fasih Digital sebagai satu daripada tujuh kompetensi yang perlu di- kuasai oleh murid.

Katanya, murid fasih digital berkemampuan untuk mengap- likasikan pengetahuan dan kemah- iran dalam menyelesaikan masalah serta mencipta sesuatu yang baharu

dengan menggunakan konsep pe- mikiran komputasional.

Antara pengetahuan dan kema- hiran digital yang akan diterapkan dalam kurikulum baharu ini ialah yang berkaitan dengan AI.

Dalam pada itu, Setiausaha Agung Kesatuan Perkhidmatan Perguruan Kebangsaan (NUTP), Fouzi Singon berkata, adalah mustahil untuk bidang AI dilak- sanakan di semua sekolah dalam tempah dua atau tiga tahun ini.

Katanya, bukan semua ka- wasan diliputi dengan rangkaian internet dan liputan talian komu- nikasi, oleh itu kerajaan sebenar- nya perlu menyelesaikan dahulu kekurangan tersebut.

"Pihak KPM melalui kerjasama kerajaan dan swasta serta sum- bangan ibu apa di sekolah ter- tentu, pasti boleh dilaksanakan," katanya.

Mengulas mengenai keterse- diaan guru dalam bidang AI, di setiap sekolah, jelas beliau, se- memangnya ada guru yang su- dah mempraktikkan penggunaan teknologi dalam pembelajaran.

"Sesetengah guru telah pun menggunakan teknologi AI dalam pengajarannya terutama guru-gu- ru muda yang kreatif.

"Jadi, untuk guru-guru meng- gunakan teknologi AI dalam pembelajaran sememangnya tiada masalah," jelasnya.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: ...1..3..MAY...2024...

CUEPACS yakin penjawat awam negeri ikut naik gaji

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KUALA NERUS: Kongres Kesatuan Pekerja-Pekerja Di Dalam Perkhidmatan Awam (CUEPACS) percaya semua kerajaan negeri akan mengambil ketetapan menaikkan gaji penjawat awam negeri lebih daripada 13 peratus selaras pengumuman Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, 1 Mei lalu.

Presidennya, Datuk Dr. Adnan Mat berkata, berdasarkan rekod-rekod kenaikan gaji dan bonus sebelum ini, didapati tiada negeri menolak pengumuman di peringkat Persekutuan.

Menurut beliau, setakat ini, beberapa negeri didapati masih menunggu perincian kenaikan gaji yang akan dimuktamadkan Pusat.

Namun, katanya, beberapa negeri lagi telah menyatakan kesedi-

aan untuk mengikuti kenaikan gaji yang ditetapkan Persekutuan.

"Bagi negeri-negeri ini sebahagiannya telah menyambut baik, sebahagian lagi belum memberi pandangan tetapi CUEPACS yakin dan percaya semua negeri satu pandangan sahaja dan menerima baik sistem saraan penjawat awam yang baharu demi kebaikan pekerja-pekerja mereka.

"Jadi ini bukan satu masalah dan yakin setiap negeri tetap dengan satu sistem saraan seluruh anggota perkhidmatan awam," kata beliau selepas Majlis Santunan Budi Aidilfitri Madani CUEPACS Terengganu 2024 di sini semalam.

Pada 8 Mei lalu *Utusan Malaysia* melaporkan kerajaan Terengganu menunggu perincian kenaikan gaji daripada Kerajaan Persekutuan sebelum mengumumkan pelarasan gaji membabitkan kakitangan

awam negeri itu.

Perdana Menteri pada 1 Mei mengumumkan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam lebih 13 peratus bermula Disember ini, antara tertinggi dan terbaik dalam sejarah negara.

Selain itu, Adnan memberitahu, CUEPACS mengharap Kerajaan Persekutuan juga dapat menaikkan kadar pencen bagi anggota perkhidmatan awam yang telah bersara selaras dengan tarikh kenaikan gaji yang diumumkan tersebut.

"Jika ada kenaikan gaji pada anggota perkhidmatan awam dan kita mahu juga dipanjangkan kepada kenaikan pencen bagi anggota perkhidmatan awam yang telah bersara.

"Cuma mungkin kadar tidak sama tetapi tetap berada dalam pelarasan pencen apabila ada kenaikan gaji. Itu adalah dasar," kata beliau.

UTUSAN MALAYSIA
Tarikh: 13 MAY 2024

Generasi Z anjakan landskap baharu perkhidmatan awam

BERSEKUTUAN
BERSAMA SAMA

19/5



IKRAM
ABDUL HALIM

AMANAT Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim semasa Hari Pekerja 2024 sememangnya telah mengukir senyuman seluruh jentera perkhidmatan awam dek usaha reformasi yang ingin direalisasikan oleh beliau dalam menjamin mutu dan keberhasilan kerja yang lebih baik melalui kualiti perkhidmatan yang ditawarkan.

Penantian warga penjawat awam akhirnya terungka apabila beliau telah mengumumkan kenaikan gaji penjawat awam dijangka melebihi 13 peratus mengikut kumpulan tertentu yang akan berkuat kuasa pada 1 Disember 2024 di bawah Sistem Saran Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA).

Semasa sesi *Townhall* Perdana Menteri bersama Persatuan Perkhidmatan Tadbir dan Diplomati (PPTD) pada 25 April yang lalu, dalam menyentuh perkembangan terkini SSPA, beliau juga telah menyampaikan mesej yang jelas kepada seluruh penjawat awam bahawa individu yang malas dan prestasi lemah tidak harus diberikan kenaikan pangkat meskipun telah lama berkhidmat.

Peringatan ini secara tidak langsung menzahirkan hasrat beliau bahawa umur dan tempoh perkhidmatan seorang penjawat awam pada hari ini bukanlah kriteria utama untuk kenaikan pangkat yang lebih tinggi serta menerima pelbagai ganjaran daripada kerajaan.

Dalam ekosistem perkhidmatan awam kini, wujud pelbagai generasi umur yang silih berganti saban tahun. Perbezaan generasi dalam sebuah organisasi merupakan sesuatu perkara yang harus dilihat menerusi kaca mata perkongsian pandangan, bukanlah persaingan pengalaman meskipun kekuatan dan kelemahan sememangnya wujud.

Sekiranya kepelbagaian ini tidak diraikan sebaiknya, akan wujud jurang generasi yang akan menatijahkan impak



GENERASI yang meneruskan legasi perkhidmatan awam adalah generasi X, generasi Y atau *millennials* dan paling baharu adalah generasi Z. - UTUSAN/FAISOL MUSTAFA

negatif terhadap perkhidmatan awam. Pasti peralihan dari satu generasi ke generasi yang baharu dipengaruhi oleh pelbagai faktor justeru mewujudkan perbezaan karakter dan nilai individu dalam sebuah generasi.

Majoriti generasi *Baby Boomers* yang lahir sebelum 1964 telah mencapai umur persaraan wajib dalam perkhidmatan. Kini, generasi yang meneruskan legasi perkhidmatan awam adalah generasi X, generasi Y atau *millennials* dan paling baharu adalah generasi Z yang lahir bermula pada 1997 hingga 2012 berdasarkan tafsiran Beresford Research.

Menurut data Jabatan Perangkaan Malaysia (DOSM), generasi Z meletakkan posisi mereka melebihi 26 peratus populasi rakyat Malaysia dan kini generasi ini juga sedang mengorak langkah memasuki dunia pekerjaan baik di sektor awam mahupun swasta. Memahami keunikan sebuah generasi dilihat penting agar perjalanan organisasi dapat dipacu secara dinamik dan harmoni.

Selaras dengan era digitalisasi hari ini, tidak dinafikan kewujudan generasi Z dalam sektor awam merupakan salah

Generasi Z diyakini berpotensi menjadi pemacu utama kerana mereka dibesarkan seiring kewujudan internet dan perkembangan digital terutamanya media sosial."

satu pemangkin ke arah pendigitalan perkhidmatan awam. Generasi ini dilihat lebih celik teknologi yang membesar seiring dengan kewujudan kecerdasan buatan (*Artificial Intelligence*), keupayaan pembelajaran mesin (*Machine Learning*), pengkomputeran awan (*Cloud Computing*) dan sebagainya.

Menurut kajian Dell Technologies, 80 peratus daripada 15,105 responden pelbagai negara yang terdiri daripada generasi Z telah menzahirkan semangat yang tinggi untuk bekerja dengan persekitaran yang menyokong perkembangan teknologi terkini. Motivasi tinggi dan

peluang yang ditawarkan oleh generasi Z harus dimanfaatkan agar usaha digitalisasi perkhidmatan awam dapat bergerak lebih tangkas.

Kewujudan pelbagai platform media sosial semestinya sentiasa menjadi ruang hangat apabila berlakunya pelbagai salah laku dan ketirisan melibatkan penjawat awam.

Namun, arus deras dibawa media sosial pada hari ini seharusnya dijadikan ruang terbaik oleh perkhidmatan awam dalam mempromosi dasar, program dan inisiatif kerajaan kepada rakyat.

Ini merupakan satu anjakan proses kerja yang baharu dan memerlukan kesediaan penjawat awam untuk mendatangi rakyat dengan pendekatan terkini. Generasi Z diyakini berpotensi menjadi pemacu utama kerana mereka dibesarkan seiring kewujudan internet dan perkembangan digital terutamanya media sosial. Dengan promosi yang baik serta kaedah maklum balas yang kreatif melalui media sosial dan digital, pastinya mesej-mesej penting dapat disampaikan dengan lebih jelas kepada rakyat.

Menurut kajian Celik Kewangan 2023 oleh

RinggitPlus, 48 peratus generasi Z di Malaysia telah memulakan usaha pelaburan sejak awal demi menjamin simpanan masa hadapan yang lebih baik. Situasi ini pastinya sehaluan dengan usaha kerajaan apabila pada awal tahun lalu diumumkan bahawa skim pencen perkhidmatan awam akan dinilai semula bagi penjawat awam lantikan baharu.

Pelbagai alternatif cadangan telah dibahaskan untuk mencari solusi terbaik dalam memastikan bebanan pembayaran pencen dapat dikurangkan. Terkini, Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) telah memperkenalkan Akaun 3 iaitu Akaun Fleksibel yang membenarkan pengeluaran jangka masa pendek dan kecemasan di samping mengekalkan akaun persaraan untuk kegunaan hari tua.

Pelaksanaan ini memberikan pilihan kepada penjawat awam terutama kepada generasi Z untuk mengambil kira caruman KWSP sebagai pilihan utama seterusnya dapat membuka lembaran baharu bagi sistem persaraan perkhidmatan awam pada masa akan datang.

Penjawat awam sebagai jentera utama kerajaan dilihat harus melipatgandakan peranan dan usaha mengikut tanggungjawab yang telah diamanaikan selaras dengan semangat islah yang sering dilayangkan oleh Perdana Menteri. Anjakan dari cara bekerja yang lapuk harus disegarkan dengan pendekatan terkini sesuai dengan peredaran zaman.

Sinergi antara penjawat awam senior dengan mereka yang lebih muda seperti generasi Z harus diperkasakan agar kualiti perkhidmatan awam sentiasa berpaksaan rakyat dan kalis cabaran masa hadapan.

Persekitaran kehidupan yang mungkin mempengaruhi cara berfikir dan gaya bertindak generasi Z seharusnya diraikan dengan bimbingan dan bukan kecaman kerana mereka ini adalah pewaris yang bakal meneruskan legasi kepimpinan negara.

MUHAMMAD Iqram Abdul Halim ialah perunding latihan di Institut Tadbiran Awam Negara (INTAN) Bukit Kiara, Kuala Lumpur.

Kaji kewajaran laksana semula GST harungi cabaran ekonomi

BH
13/5

• GST dapat mengurangkan kebergantungan hasil negara kepada hasil minyak supaya hasil negara lebih mampan pada masa hadapan, tidak tertakluk kepada pergerakan harga minyak dunia di luar kawalan kita

• Dari segi teori ekonomi, sesebuah sistem cukai yang telus dan cekap akan meningkatkan hasil negara tanpa perlu meningkatkan kadar cukai yang akhirnya membebaskan rakyat



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Baru-baru ini, Dewan Perniagaan dan Perindustrian Kebangsaan Malaysia (NCCIM) dilihat membuat keputusan agak luar biasa apabila sepakat menyarankan Cukai Barangan dan Perkhidmatan (GST) diperkenalkan semula kerana ia langkah terbaik untuk meningkatkan hasil kerajaan.

Gabungan lima dewan perniagaan ini, iaitu Dewan Perniagaan Melayu Malaysia (DPM), Gabungan Dewan Perniagaan dan Perindustrian Cina Malaysia (ACCIM), Gabungan Dewan Perniagaan Dan Perindustrian India Malaysia (MAICCI), Persekutuan Pekilang-Pekilang Malaysia (FMM) dan Dewan Perniagaan dan Industri Antarabangsa Malaysia (MICCI) berkata, GST bersifat menyeluruh untuk semua pihak berbanding pengenalan pelbagai cukai baharu ketika ini hanya tertumpu kepada beberapa golongan.

Menuju ke hadapan, dalam mendepani keadaan ekonomi lebih mencabar ketika ini, bagaimana GST mampu menjadi jalan terbaik untuk mereformasi struktur ekonomi dan sistem cukai secara lebih berkesan serta menyeluruh seperti yang diharapkan NCCIM.

Berdasarkan kepada pengalaman pelaksanaan GST mulai 2015 sehingga dimansuhkan pada 2018, terdapat 10 sebab kenapa GST perlu diperkenalkan semula.

Kurangkan kesenjangan agihan pendapatan

Pertama, GST dapat mengurangkan kebergantungan hasil negara kepada hasil minyak. Ini penting supaya hasil negara lebih mampan pada masa hadapan dan tidak tertakluk kepada pergerakan harga minyak dunia di luar kawalan kita.

Peratusan kebergantungan hasil negara sudah berkurangan daripada 40 peratus pada 2009 kepada sekitar 14 peratus pada 2017.

GST juga menyelamatkan ekonomi negara pada 2016 apabila harga minyak dunia jatuh secara mendadak. Dalam usaha untuk beralih kepada tenaga baharu, kebergantungan kepada hasil minyak juga perlu dikurangkan.

Kedua, GST dapat mengurangkan kesenjangan dalam agihan pendapatan rakyat. Jika dilihat nilai Indeks Gini pada ketika GST dilaksanakan, nilainya turun kepada 0.39 daripada 0.45.

Indeks Gini berskala 0 hingga 1; nilai 0 bermaksud kesaksamaan sempurna dan nilai 1 bermakna ketidak-samaan sepenuhnya.

Ketiga, masalah ekonomi gelap dapat ditangani. Peratusan ekonomi gelap dalam ekonomi Malaysia sudah dapat dikurangkan ke tahap 10 peratus daripada 25 peratus. Antara sebab utama adalah GST ini berlaku pada tahap transaksi dan menyebabkan ia telus dan sukar untuk peniaga lari daripada membayar cukai.

Keempat, GST dapat meningkatkan serta merangsang pelaburan dengan lebih mampan. Ini kerana, ketika GST dilaksanakan, cukai korporat dikurangkan secara beransur-ansur dan trend ini dapat dilihat pada lebih 170 negara yang pada ketika ini melaksanakan GST, sama ada negara berpendapatan tinggi, berpendapatan sederhana dan berpendapatan rendah.

Kelima, sistem GST dapat merangsang eksport ke-

rana cukai tidak dikenakan ke atas eksport dan wujud mekanisme rebat dalam GST. Ini berbeza dengan Cukai Jualan dan Perkhidmatan (SST) mempunyai kesan cukai atas cukai, kesan melata dan kesan berganda akan meningkatkan lagi harga barangan.

Keenam, GST bersifat lebih adil. Tanpa GST, hanya 4.6 juta daripada 16.5 juta tenaga buruh di Malaysia membayar cukai. Apabila GST dilaksanakan, cakupannya lebih luas.

Lebih 68 peratus barangan dalam bakul Indeks Harga Pengguna (CPI) dikenakan GST, manakala 10 peratus sahaja bagi cukai perkhidmatan.

Ketujuh, sistem cukai GST lebih telus dan mempunyai tatakelola baik. Contohnya, jika kadar GST adalah 6.0 peratus, maka ia jelas dan nilainya 6.0 peratus. Ini berbeza dengan sistem SST.

Sebab itu ramai risau kenaikan harga barang apabila cukai perkhidmatan dinaikkan sebanyak 2.0 peratus daripada 6.0 peratus kepada 8.0 peratus.

Disebabkan cukai ke atas input tidak dapat dituntut dan elemen cukai menjadi kos di sepanjang rantaian bekalan, maka pengguna akan menanggung kos tambahan melebihi daripada sepatutnya. Inilah dipanggil kesan melata ataupun 'cascading effect'.

Kelapan, GST dapat memberikan hasil jauh lebih besar daripada SST dan ini dapat mengurangkan defisit negara secara berhemah dan efektif.

Bayangkan tambahan hasil lebih RM20 bilion dengan kadar 6.0 peratus bagi GST, berbanding tambahan hanya RM3 bilion apabila cukai perkhidmatan dinaikkan sehingga 8.0 peratus. Akibatnya defisit fiskal negara dapat dikawal.

Sebenarnya, penanda aras ketujuh dalam kerangka Ekonomi MADANI sudahpun dicapai ketika GST

dilaksanakan apabila kadar defisit negara stabil pada kadar 3.0 peratus.

Dari segi teori ekonomi, sesebuah sistem cukai telus dan cekap akan meningkatkan hasil negara tanpa perlu meningkatkan kadar cukai yang akhirnya membebaskan rakyat pula.

Kesembilan, GST dapat memudahkan semua pihak, sama ada kerajaan, peniaga dan pengguna. Jika adanya GST, e-invoicing misalnya, sudah tidak perlu lagi dilaksanakan.

Tak perlu lagi cukai baharu

Kita juga tidak perlu pelbagai bentuk cukai baharu diperkenalkan pada ketika ini, seperti cukai barangan bernilai tinggi, cukai barangan bernilai rendah, cukai digital dan pelbagai cukai lagi.

Ke-10, GST dapat meluaskan lagi asas hasil negara. Dari perspektif ekonomi, aspek ini sangat penting. Ketika ini, nisbah cukai kepada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) negara sangat rendah, iaitu di bawah 12 peratus jika dibandingkan dengan negara jiran serantau.

Ja jauh lebih rendah jika dibandingkan dengan negara di Asia Pasifik, iaitu sekitar 19 peratus dan kebanyakan negara maju berada pada tahap 33 peratus ke atas.

Jika kita lihat struktur cukai negara mempunyai nisbah cukai kepada KDNK tinggi ini, sememangnya sumbangan utama adalah datang daripada bentuk cukai tidak langsung, iaitu GST ataupun VAT.

Tidak dinafikan GST ada kelemahan kerana tidak ada sistem cukai sempurna. Namun begitu, kebanyakan masalah yang timbul adalah isu pelaksanaan dan bukannya sistem cukai itu sendiri.



Reformasi fiskal berpotensi perkuat nilai ringgit



Maybank IB lihat pelaksanaan lebih pantas dalam jana hasil atau sokongan positif mata wang

Oleh Mahanum Abdul Aziz
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Pembaharuan dan penstrukturan semula ekonomi serta dasar pertumbuhan strategik adalah penting untuk menyokong ringgit dalam jangka panjang, kata Maybank Investment Bank (Maybank IB).

Namun, bank pelaburan itu melihat pelaksanaan reformasi fiskal sebagai memiliki potensi yang lebih pantas dalam menjana hasil atau sokongan positif kepada ringgit.

Jelasnya, ini terutama dengan sasaran untuk mengurangkan defisit belanjawan kepada -3.0 peratus daripada Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) dan menghebadkan jumlah hutang kera-

jaan tidak lebih 60 peratus daripada KDNK dalam tiga hingga lima tahun mengikut Akta Kewangan Awam dan Tanggungjawab Fiskal (FRA), iaitu selewat-lewatnya menjelang 2026 dan 2028.

Katanya, pada masa ini, kerajaan sedang melancarkan peluasan asas cukai meningkatkan hasil seperti mengenakan Cukai Keuntungan Modal dan 10 peratus Cukai Barang Bernilai Rendah berkuat kuasa 1 Januari 2024; peningkatan asas Cukai Perkhidmatan dan pelarasan kadar kepada julat 6.0 peratus hingga 8.0 peratus berbanding 6.0 peratus serta kenaikan Cukai Gula berkuat kuasa 1 Mac 2024 serta Cukai Barang Bernilai Tinggi yang akan dilaksanakan kelak.

"Langkah peningkatan hasil selanjutnya tahun ini, termasuk memperkukuh pematuhan cukai menerusi e-invois mulai 1 Ogos 2024.

"Pada masa sama, kami menjangkakan kerajaan akan melancarkan rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api yang disasarkan menjelang akhir suku kedua 2024, bermula dengan subsidi diesel berikutan Program perintis Sistem Kawalan Diesel 2.0 Bersubsidi

(Februari-April 2024), serta melengkapkan FRA dengan pembentangan Akta Perolehan Kerajaan (GPA)," katanya dalam nota penyelidikannya.

Maybank IB berkata, ringgit telah stabil dalam beberapa minggu kebelakangan ini, meningkat kepada RM4.74 satu dolar pada 9 Mei daripada paras terendah RM4.80 pada 20 Februari.

Ia berkata, ini berikutan komunikasi dan tindakan diselarasikan oleh Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) dan Kementerian Kewangan yang merangkumi langkah sokongan ringgit, termasuk menggalakkan Syarikat Berkaitan Kerajaan (GLC) dan Syarikat Pelaburan Berkaitan Kerajaan (GLIC) menghantar pulang dan menukar pendapatan pertukaran asing dan pendapatan pelaburan luar negara mereka.

Di samping itu, katanya, pihaknya percaya ada campur tangan pasaran tukaran asing (FX) dalam menstabilkan ringgit oleh BNM, seperti ditunjukkan oleh penurunan AS\$2.1 bilion dalam rizab luar pada Februari hingga April 2024 serta peningkatan dalam kedudukan hadapan jangka pendek bersih BNM sebanyak

AS\$4.1 bilion pada April 2024 ke paras tertinggi baharu AS\$26.92 bilion. Ia berbanding tertinggi sebelumnya, iaitu AS\$26.73 bilion pada Mac 2023.

"Berdasarkan penyelidikan FX kami, pada akhir tahun ini ringgit dijangka lebih kukuh pada RM4.60 berbanding dolar AS. Faktor positif, termasuk petunjuk prospek pertumbuhan ekonomi domestik yang bertambah baik," katanya.

Pada masa sama, Maybank IB berkata, prospek kadar faedah AS juga penting.

OPR dijangka kekal tahun ini

Mengimbas kembali, ia berkata, ringgit mengukuh untuk ditutup RM4.59 satu dolar pada akhir 2023 berbanding paras rendah RM4.79 satu dolar pada 23 Oktober 2023 apabila pasaran mengambil kira jangkaan pengurangan kadar faedah Fed AS paling awal pada Mac 2024 dengan pengurangan sebanyak 150 mata asas.

Namun, katanya, tinjauan berubah kepada pengurangan 50 mata asas dalam kadar dana Fed akhir tahun ini mengikut niaga hadapan dana Fed 30 hari terkini. Perkara ini sudah memperbaharui tekanan terhadap ringgit ber-

banding dolar AS sejak beberapa bulan yang lalu.

"Bagaimanapun, sebaik sahaja ketidakpastian dasar kadar faedah AS, dari segi masa dan kuantum, mulai reda, kami menjangkakan prospek ringgit akan bertambah baik di tengah-tengah Kadar Dasar Semalaman (OPR) stabil dan pengurangan kadar dana Fed AS," katanya.

Mengenai jangkaan OPR, Maybank IB mengunjurkan OPR kekal pada 3.00 peratus bagi sepanjang 2024 memandangkan unjuran semasa pertumbuhan KDNK yang sederhana meningkat dengan jangkaan bagi 2024 sebanyak 4.4 peratus, sementara bagi suku pertama 2024 sebanyak 3.9 peratus berbanding 3.7 peratus pada 2023.

Ia berkata, risiko kenaikan kadar inflasi sebahagian besarnya disebabkan oleh langkah fiskal untuk mengurangkan defisit belanjawan kepada -4.3 peratus daripada KDNK tahun ini berbanding -5.0 peratus daripada KDNK pada 2023 dengan meluaskan cukai asas dan meningkatkan hasil, terutama pelarasan cukai berkaitan penggunaan serta melaksanakan rasionalisasi subsidi bahan api dan elektrik bersasar.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 13 MAY 2024

Pengeluaran lebih RM250 perlu lalui proses e-KYC

Bayaran had minimum RM50 dibuat secara pengkreditan terus ke akaun

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Kuala Lumpur: Pengeluaran Akaun Fleksibel Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) boleh dilakukan pada bila-bila masa dengan had pengeluaran minimum RM50 dan terhad ke-

pada baki dalam akaun ahli.

Menurut KWSP, bayaran akan dibuat secara pengkreditan terus ke dalam akaun bank ahli. Mereka yang ingin mengeluarkan wang lebih RM250 perlu melalui proses e-KYC.

Secara amnya, ahli tidak perlu hadir di Pejabat KWSP bagi tujuan di atas kerana pengesahan identiti juga boleh dibuat secara dalam talian tertakluk kepada sejarah rekod ahli dan amaun pengeluaran tidak melebihi RM30,000.

Bagi ahli yang tiada rekod pengeluaran atau maklumat akaun bank adalah berbeza dengan rekod pengeluaran terdahulu, ahli perlu mengesahkan identiti melalui: Pengesahan cap ibu jari di

Self-Service Terminal (SST) KWSP bagi amaun permohonan pengeluaran lebih RM10,000; ATAU pengesahan dalam talian tertakluk kepada amaun permohonan pengeluaran kurang daripada RM10,000.

Proses pengesahan identiti

Proses e-KYC atau 'electronic Know-Your-Customer' adalah satu proses pengesahan identiti secara elektronik melalui teknologi pengesanan wajah di aplikasi KWSP i-Akaun.

Sebelum ini, KWSP mengumumkan inisiatif Penstrukturan Semula Akaun KWSP dengan semua akaun ahli di bawah umur 55 tahun akan distruktur semula kepada tiga akaun iaitu Akaun



KWSP mengumumkan inisiatif Penstrukturan Semula Akaun KWSP bابت semua akaun ahli di bawah umur 55 tahun. (Foto hiasan)

Persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera dan Akaun Fleksibel.

Menerusi Akaun Persaraan, sebanyak 75 peratus daripada jumlah caruman bulanan akan ditolak sebagai simpanan pendapatan semasa persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera (15 peratus) bagi menangani keperluan kitaran hayat yang menyumbang kepada kesejahteraan semasa persaraan serta Akaun Fleksibel sebagai akaun baharu untuk menyediakan fleksibiliti untuk keperluan kewangan jangka pendek.

Simpanan dalam Akaun Fleksibel iaitu 10 peratus daripada caruman setiap bulan itu, boleh dikeluarkan pada bila-bila masa

mengikut keperluan ahli.

Baki dalam Akaun 1 dan Akaun 2 masing-masing akan kekal dalam Akaun Persaraan dan Akaun Sejahtera, manakala Akaun Fleksibel akan bermula dengan baki sifar.

Namun, bagi pencarum yang ingin mengeluarkan simpanan dalam Akaun Sejahtera (akaun 2) dan diletakkan dalam Akaun Fleksibel (akaun 3), mereka boleh berbuat demikian dengan menggunakan aplikasi i-Akaun.

Bagaimanapun, tidak semua wang dalam simpanan Akaun Sejahtera itu boleh dipindahkan kerana ia tertakluk kepada perki-raan tertentu.

Invest Selangor eyes RM7b transaction value

BANGKOK: Invest Selangor Bhd is eyeing up to RM7 billion in potential transaction value from the Selangor International Business Summit (SIBS) this year.

Invest Selangor chief executive officer Datuk Hasan Azhari Idris said following the overwhelming response from last year's SIBS, the summit would be held twice this year to accommodate increasing demand.

"Last year, we managed to achieve about RM6 billion in potential transaction value, so we

are confident to be able to achieve RM1 billion more this year, with the first series set from July 25 to 27, while the second series will be held from Oct 16 to 19," he told Bernama after promoting the summit here on Saturday.

He said they were expecting around 60,000 visitors to attend the trade shows.

The SIBS is an annual business event initiated by the Selangor government and organised by Invest Selangor.

However, Hasan said the two

events in the first series in July would focus on the investment sector, namely the Selangor Industrial Park Expo (Spark) and the Selangor Asean Business Conference.

He said Spark, themed "Selangor, Gateway to Asean", aimed to showcase the state's capabilities and attractiveness as an investment destination in the Southeast Asian region, and to provide a one-stop event to showcase potential investment locations in Malaysia as well as in Southeast Asia. **Bernama**

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: 13 MAY 2024

Withdrawals over RM250 will be vetted

KUALA LUMPUR: Employees Provident Fund (EPF) members can withdraw a maximum of RM250 from their Akaun Fleksibel (Flexible Account) without having to go through an electronic verification process.

EPF said the minimum withdrawal was RM50 and the money would be credited into the member's bank account.

Those wishing to withdraw more than RM250 must undergo verification called electronic Know Your Customer (e-KYC), which uses facial recognition technology within EPF's i-Akaun application.

EPF said in most cases, members were not required to present themselves to an EPF office for

identity verification, subject to the member's history record and if the withdrawal amount did not exceed RM30,000.

"For members with no prior withdrawal record or whose bank account information differs from previous records, identity verification is necessary via thumbprint verification at an EPF self-service terminal for withdrawals exceeding RM10,000, or via online for withdrawals less than RM10,000," it said in a statement.

EPF has restructured members' accounts to three from only two previously.

The Retirement Account (Akaun Persaraan) accumulates savings; the Welfare Account

(Akaun Sejahtera) is to address life-cycle needs; and the Flexible Account is for short-term financial needs.

After May 11, 75 per cent of contributions will go into the Retirement Account, 15 per cent into the Welfare Account, and 10 per cent into the Flexible Account.

Balances in Account 1 and Account 2 will remain in the Retirement Account and Welfare Account, respectively, while the Flexible Account will start with zero balance.

Between May 11 and Aug 31, members may make a one-time transfer of part of their balance in the Welfare Account (previously Account 2) into the Flexible Account.

NEW STRAITS TIMES

Tarikh: ...1.3.MAY.2011...

NARROW RANGE OF 4.73 TO 4.74

Ringgit seen to trade in cautious mode against US dollar

KUALA LUMPUR: The ringgit is expected to be traded in a cautious mode against the US dollar this week as traders seek fresh leads from more significant economic data.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzani-zam Abdul Rashid said market participants would digest major data, including the United States data on the producer price index, consumer price index and retail sales, to build their conviction.

"The US Federal Reserve (Fed) officials lining up to share their views would include vice-chair Philip Jefferson and Federal Open Market Committee members Loretta

Mester and Christopher Waller.

"I would say the ringgit would (be traded in a) cautious mode and could remain in a narrow range of 4.73 to 4.74 this week."

He said market participants would also be looking at Malaysia's first quarter gross domestic product (GDP) data on Friday.

"We project GDP to have grown four per cent in the first three months due to sustained domestic demand and improved global trade," he added.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said this week's US inflation data could trigger a significant sell-off in the

US dollar if it comes in cooler than expected.

"Conversely, if the data aligns with expectations, it could extend the current US dollar sell-off."

Innes said the market seems to be interpreting the mounting evidence of a weakening US economy as a sign that the Fed could turn increasingly dovish, possibly even pricing in a rate cut as early as July.

"While this outlook represents an extremely bearish view on the US dollar, it aligns with recent survey data and suggests that the US dollar is poised to weaken."

"Consequently, I anticipate that the ringgit will be traded with a



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stronger bias this week, assuming the US-China tensions do not escalate further.

"I think we could test 4.72 this week, but conservatively, I would go 4.7350 to 4.7550," he added.

Last week, the ringgit, along with other Asean currencies, reacted to the weaker-than-expected US nonfarm payrolls data and Bank Negara Malaysia's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting on May 9, when the central bank decided to maintain the Overnight Policy Rate at three per cent.

AmBank Economics said last Thursday, the ringgit was muted ahead of the MPC decision, but post-

meeting, the undervalued ringgit provided some allure and dropped to 4.7380.

"The muted ringgit reaction suggests external factors, rather than domestic ones, persistently directing the currency's movement.

"We maintain that the ringgit has more upside than where it is currently trading and could reach 4.50 by year end," it said.

On a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit depreciated to 4.7385/7410 versus the greenback from 4.7370/7400 earlier.

The ringgit traded mostly higher against a basket of major currencies.

It rose against the Brit-

ish pound to 5.9364/9395 from 5.9487/9525, edged up versus the yen to 3.0428/0446 from 3.0947/0968, but went down vis-a-vis the euro to 5.1072/1098 from 5.0890/0922 previously.

The ringgit traded mostly lower against Asean currencies.

It was down against the baht to 12.9009/9137 from 12.8723/8850, slipped against the rupiah to 295.2/295.6 from 294.4/294.8, inched up vis-a-vis the Singapore dollar to 3.5017/5038 from 3.5027/5054 and was unchanged versus the Philippine peso to 8.25/8.26 from 8.25/8.27 previously.

Bernama

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 11.3 MAY 2024

BELOW 4.50 AGAINST US DOLLAR

POTENTIAL YEAR-END RINGGIT

Kenanga Research says this will be supported by Bank Negara's monetary policy

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THE ringgit has strong potential to strengthen to below 4.50 against the US dollar by year end.

This is backed by expectations that Bank Negara Malaysia will maintain its current policy stance for the rest of the year and the government's commitment to fiscal discipline, according to Kenanga Research.

The ringgit had faced pressure from elevated US core personal consumption expenditure readings and solid retail sales figures, denting hopes for a Federal Reserve (Fed) rate cut.

Kenanga Research said US indicators such as weak labour demand, sluggish wage growth, a rise in corporate bankruptcies, credit card defaults and auto delinquencies suggest that vulnerable segments of the economy are grappling with elevated interest rates.

The firm said this scenario has led to anticipation of further economic softness and the potential easing of inflationary pressures in the US, prompting the Fed to

consider a rate cut as early as September.

"Concurrently, with expectations of Bank Negara maintaining its current policy stance for the remainder of the year and the government's commitment to fiscal discipline, there is strong potential for the ringgit to strengthen to below 4.50 by the end of 2024," it said in a note.

Recently, Bank Negara deputy governor Adnan Zaylani Mohamad Zahid said uncertainties over China's economic growth prospects and geopolitical crises have increased the US dollar demand as a safe-haven asset.

"Much has been made of the performance of the ringgit against the US dollar. Unfortunately, many see and use this as an indicator or barometer of how we are doing.

"This is an unfair assessment as it ignores the overall currency performance, the strength and fundamentals of our economy, and the outlook going forward," he said.

SPI Asset Management managing director Stephen Innes said Bank Negara's assessment is spot-on, but unfortunately, market dynamics often dictate currency movements.

He said even though the yen

is significantly undervalued on a trade-weighted basis, market forces have still driven it to multi-decade lows, much like the ringgit.

"The main challenge for low-yielding Asian foreign exchange markets is the wide interest rate differentials between local and US returns.

"Unless domestic stock markets can outperform the US market



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etary policy and the government's commitment to fiscal discipline

with a comfortable risk-adjusted return, the ringgit may continue to struggle."

In forex markets, Innes said it is crucial to recognise that the primary drivers of the US dollar lie within US economic data and Fed actions.

Fortunately for the ringgit, he said weakening US economic data should lead to a softer Fed

policy stance.

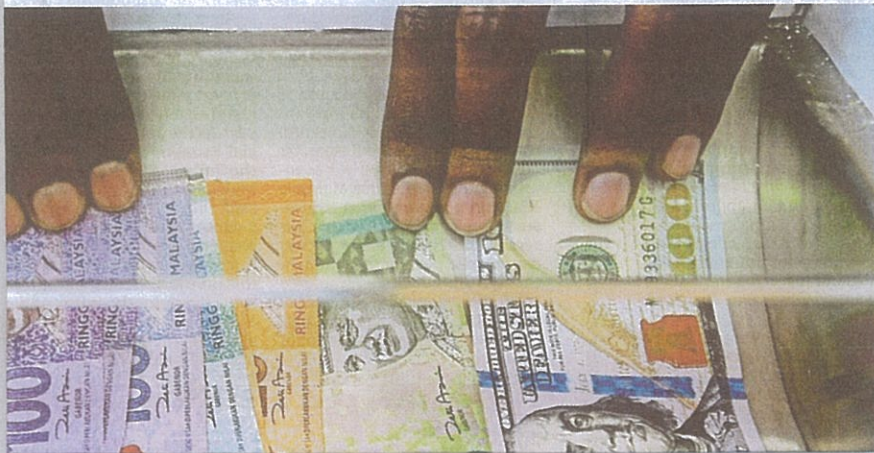
"I anticipate that the US dollar will trend downwards as the market responds to this softer data."

"This shift in expectations is likely to result in a more dovish Fed outlook."

"While the 4.50 level for the ringgit may represent an optimistic scenario where US-China trade tensions remain subdued leading

to the US presidential election, I would feel more comfortable with the 4.60 level."

"This is considering geopolitical risks, safe-haven demand for the US dollar, concerns about a potential yuan devaluation if the currency doesn't strengthen, and the wider spot interest rate differentials between Malaysia and the US by year end," he added.



NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: ...11.3.MAY.2024...

Microsoft's AI initiatives for Malaysia

MICROSOFT'S plan to invest RM10.5 billion over the next four years to support Malaysia's digital transformation is poised to develop Malaysia into a hub for cloud computing and related advanced technologies such as generative artificial intelligence (AI).

During a recent visit here, Microsoft president and chief executive officer Satya Nadella said the company aims to develop "world-class infrastructure" for Malaysia that will help local businesses, communities and developers apply the latest technology to bolster economic growth nationwide.

Its investment entails the development of cloud and AI infrastructure, creating AI skilling opportunities for 200,000 people, strengthening its partnership with the government and supporting the growth of the developer community.

MICROSOFT'S SKILLING COMMITMENT COVERS:

- Technical and vocational education and training students with AI skills through the AI Teach Malaysia programme;
- Women with opportunities and support to build careers in cyber-

security via the Ready4AI&Security programme;

- Young people with AI fluency training to enhance the employability and work readiness of those from underserved and underrepresented communities; and
- Employees of non-profit organisations with knowledge of and skills in AI and digital technologies.

Overall, the commitment builds on Microsoft's other recent skilling activities in Malaysia, including its success in providing digital skills to more than 1.53 million Malaysians as part of the Bersama Malaysia initiative.

MICROSOFT'S AI SOLUTIONS



In his speech at the Microsoft Build: AI Day, Satya said the company launched Microsoft Copilot in September last year which unified all of Microsoft's capabilities into a single experience.

The solution is available on Windows 11, Microsoft 365, Edge and Bing for a seamless AI-powered experience across applications and devices.

Copilot incorporates context from the web and an individual's work data onto the PC to provide a seamless working experience without compromising privacy and security.

Among the first users of Copilot in Malaysia are Permodalan Nasional

Bhd and AmBank Group.

Satya said Perumahan Rakyat 1Malaysia (PR1MA) had also deployed Copilot for Microsoft 365 across its information technology, human resources, finance and legal department.

"PR1MA has already seen a 30 per cent reduction in time spent on routine administrative tasks, allowing employees to focus more on strategic initiatives and value-adding activities."

OPTIMISING THE POWER OF AI

Satya said Microsoft aims to have a wider selection of models for its AI infrastructure to enable users to optimise the power of AI.

"We will have the frontier model, as well as the open source model. The combination of these excellence models really brings the power back in the hands of developers to optimise for all of the various design considerations."

Satya said Microsoft will continue

Announcing

\$2.2B investment to empower Malaysia with cloud and AI



Microsoft president and chief executive officer Satya Nadella. AFP PIC

to help Malaysia's developer community tap their potential through new initiatives such as AI Odyssey, which is expected to help 2,000 Malaysian developers become AI subject matter experts by learning new skills and earning Microsoft credentials.

Meanwhile, he said Malaysia is also a rapidly growing market on Microsoft-owned software development, GitHub.

Almost 680,000 of the nation's developers are said to have used GitHub — a developer platform that enables developers to store and manage their code — last year.

Doctor2U is one of the local developers using GitHub Copilot to expedite development.

Satya said tasks that previously took two hours were now being completed in 30 minutes.

In addition, the implementation of Azure AI Search has sped up the record retrieval process, reducing the time it takes to return results from a

multi-million patient data set from one minute to one second.

Microsoft Azure is Microsoft's public cloud computing platform that provides services such as computing, analytics, storage and networking. It offers four different forms of cloud computing, namely infrastructure as a service, platform as a service, software as a service and serverless functions.

Microsoft will also collaborate with the National Cyber Security Agency of Malaysia (NACSA) through the Perisai Siber initiative to enhance the country's cybersecurity capabilities. The collaboration will focus on promoting security and resilience in the public sector through security assessments and capacity building.

In addition, Microsoft will look to support NACSA in its role as Malaysia's lead agency for cybersecurity matters, as it formulates the next stage of the nation's cybersecurity strategy.



Microsoft's investment entails the development of cloud and artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in Malaysia, creating AI skilling opportunities. PICTURE CREDIT: DC STUDIO — FREEPIK



Microsoft will continue to help Malaysia's developer community tap their potential through new initiatives such as AI Odyssey. NSTP FILE PIC

State land in S'gor to be kept as green area

MSA
Sun
13/5

KUALA LUMPUR: An area of 34.4ha belonging to the Selangor State Development Corporation located in Siera Alam will be maintained as a green area in a development project, which will commence soon.

It said in a statement the development, which will be carried out in phases, received an approval permit from the Engineering Department, Shah Alam City Council prior to starting ground works.

"The works for the first phase started since March, which is expected to be completed in 2026. The first phase involves 61.3ha of land, that will be developed for residential and commercial lots while the rest will be utility facilities.

"Land and main infrastructure works are still being planned for the second phase of the development, involving 79.7ha of land.

"The second phase will include development of residential, commercial, utility and recreational projects while maintaining the 34.4ha green area." - Bernama

THE SUN
11 3 MAY 2024
Tarikh:

Govt serious in driving AI development: Analysts

KUALA LUMPUR: The ability of a country to implement digital transformation and adopt artificial intelligence (AI) technology to stimulate innovation, enhance productivity and competitiveness has become one of the benchmarks in attracting foreign investments.

This was underscored by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who wants Malaysia to swiftly develop an AI ecosystem, particularly to cultivate a skilled workforce to meet the demands of technology giants expressing interest in investing in the country.

The government's commitment to nurturing the AI ecosystem is evident through various initiatives such as "AI Untuk Rakyat" and AI Sandbox 2024, with the goal of establishing 900 AI startups and nurturing 13,000 new talents by 2026.

On Friday, Anwar launched three additional initiatives – the AI Talent Roadmap for Malaysia 2024-2030, the AI Faculty (FAI) at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), and the Malaysia AI Consortium.

UTM AI and Robotics Centre researcher Dr Ahmad Athif Mohd Faudzi said these initiatives encompass holistic aspects of AI ecosystem development, which would complement one another.

"With rapid developments in Western countries and China, for instance, we need to harness and enhance Malaysian expertise to drive the economy with AI and robotics technology."

Ahmad Athif said the AI Talent Roadmap programme covers short, medium and long-term planning, supported by the establishment

of the FAI offering a Bachelor of AI programme with the first intake of students in October this year.

Meanwhile, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan Data Science and Computing Faculty Deputy Dean Dr Hadhrami Ab Ghani said the prime minister's emphasis on accelerating the use and development of AI is timely, considering that the technology has been rapidly evolving worldwide.

"Without such serious emphasis as demonstrated by the prime minister, Malaysia risks falling behind and could struggle to compete with other nations, despite already showing positive signs of economic growth through diverse foreign investments since his tenure as the 10th prime minister."

"All parties entrusted with spearheading AI

usage must possess qualifications, dedication and be transparent as well as be guided and monitored by relevant authorities in the ministry or at the relevant levels.

"Close collaboration among all involved agencies and stakeholders is key. AI is not a new concept, and numerous experts in Malaysia can be leveraged, particularly from universities and industries."

On the FAI, Hadhrami expressed hope that similar faculties could be set up in other universities to provide more opportunities for Malaysians to learn AI.

"AI is increasingly diverse and not confined solely to computer and computer science students. Therefore, AI faculties, if expanded nationwide, are likely to be extremely popular."

— Bernama

THE SUN

Tarikh: 17 3 MAY 2024

'Living wage exceeds minimum pay set by govt'

➤ Addressing rising cost of living and improving income distribution more feasible than raising remuneration: MEF

■ BY JOSHUA PURUSHOTMAN
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

PETALING JAYA: A recent talk on "Living wage and International Labour Organisation (ILO) key wage setting principles" organised by the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) reiterated that the living wage in the country is far above the minimum wage of RM1,500 set by the government.

MEF president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husnain told *theSun* that Bank Negara Malaysia estimated a living wage of RM2,700 for single adults in Kuala Lumpur, RM4,500 for couples without children and RM6,500 for couples with two children.

"The living wage in rural areas or small towns is low due to the affordable cost of living."

"Although it is pertinent that Malaysians earn a decent living, the minimum wage is influenced by principles of supply and demand within the labour force."

He said oil and gas companies that are doing well usually pay above minimum wage, "but 97% of Malaysian businesses are small and midsize enterprises that just make ends meet and struggle with payrolls."

Syed Hussain said the Living Wage Agreement was reached during a meeting of

experts on wage policies in February, and endorsed by the ILO Governing Body at their session on March 13.

"The concept of a living wage refers to the wage level necessary to afford a decent standard of living for workers and their families, taking into account the country's circumstances and the work performed during normal working hours."

"It should not be one-size-fits-all but achieved through wage-setting processes in line with ILO principles, such as strengthening social dialogue, collective bargaining and empowering wage-setting institutions."

"Instead of recommending the government raise the minimum wage, it is more feasible to address the rising cost of living and emphasise a more comprehensive and fair income distribution strategy," he said, adding that this would include monitoring prices, increasing subsidies for essential items and implementing policies that provide financial assistance to those in greater need.

According to the National Wages Consultative Council (NWCC) Act, the standard for deciding minimum wages are base and adjustment criteria.

Base criteria include poverty line income and median wage, while adjustment criteria

include changes in consumer price index, productivity growth and real unemployment rate.

Syed Hussain said despite a positive long-term global trend in average wages, millions of workers worldwide in formal and informal economies live in poverty and continue to earn low wages compared with the cost of living.

"The workers and their families are unable to afford healthy food, decent housing, medical care or schooling for their children. So, it is the responsibility of every stakeholder to re-examine the issue of wages, its collective definition as applied in Malaysia and the challenges in implementing the evolving concept of a living wage."

He said the review is important due to an increase of workers transiting jobs, with almost three million in the gig economy sector, although not all live in poverty as some are paid better than others.

"The minimum wage is different from living and progressive wages. NWCC is studying what the minimum wage should be. The study is expected to be completed and discussed by NWCC by year end, after which a recommendation would be made to the government."

"A pilot study on a progressive wage for those earning below RM5,000 is being carried out by the government to analyse what subsidies could be given to close the gap in living wages. We look forward to the results of the study."

THE SUN 2024
11 3 MAY
Tarikh:

Ringgit to trade cautiously as market awaits fresh leads

Sun
13/5

THE ringgit is expected to be traded in a cautious mode against the US dollar this week as traders seek fresh leads from more significant economic data.

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd chief economist Dr Mohd Afzanizam Abdul Rashid said market participants would digest major data, including those on the US producer price index, consumer price index and retail sales, to build their conviction.

"US Federal Reserve (Fed) officials lining up to share their views would include vice-chair Philip Jefferson and Federal Open Market Committee members Loretta Mester and Christopher Waller. I would say the ringgit would (be traded in a) cautious mode and could remain in a narrow range of 4.73 to 4.74 next (this) week," he told Bernama.

Mohd Afzanizam said market participants would also be looking at Malaysia's first quarter of 2024 gross domestic product (GDP) on Friday. "We are projecting GDP to grow at 4.4% in the first three months of the year due to sustained domestic demand and improvement in global trade," he added.

Last week, on a Friday-to-Friday basis, the ringgit depreciated to 4.7385/7410 versus the greenback from 4.7370/7400 a week earlier.

The ringgit traded mostly higher against a basket of major currencies. The local note rose against the British pound to 5.9364/9395 from 5.9487/9525 over the week, edged up versus the Japanese yen to 3.0428/0446 from 3.0947/0968, but went down vis-a-vis the euro to 5.1072/1098 from 5.0890/0922 previously.

The Malaysian unit was mostly lower against Asean currencies.

THE SUN
Tarikh: 13 MAY 2024



Oleh FARID AHMAD TARMJI

ALAM sekitar merupakan satu anugerah yang tidak ternilai kerana mempunyai peranannya tersendiri. Kita sebagai penghuni di muka ini perlu bersama-sama melestarikan alam sekitar agar terus terpelihara untuk generasi akan datang. Oleh yang demikian, seiring dengan sambutan Hari Bumi 2024, Persatuan Rakan Alam Sekitar Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Student Chapter (RAS UiTM SC) telah menganjurkan program Penanaman 1,000 Pokok Bakau 1 RAS 1 Pokok.

Program itu bertujuan memupuk kesedaran dan kepedulian terhadap kelestarian alam sekitar, khususnya di Selangor.

Program yang diadakan di Hutan Simpan Kapar Tambahan, Jeram, Kuala Selangor itu dijayakan dengan kerjasama Jabatan Alam Sekitar Negeri Selangor, Jabatan Perhutanan Negeri Selangor, Canon Opto, WCT Holdings Berhad dan Samsung Electronics.

Mengambil impak yang signifikan, program itu menjadi mercu tanda dalam usaha memupuk kesedaran dan kepedulian terhadap kelestarian alam sekitar, khususnya di Selangor.

Pengarah program, Amani Nisa Ahmad Fazly berkata, pelaksanaan program itu merupakan langkah praktikal untuk menggalakkan kesedaran dan tindakan positif terhadap kelestarian alam sekitar.

Menurutnya, peserta bukan sahaja dapat menambah ilmu pengetahuan mengenai kelestarian ekosistem pokok bakau, malah dapat menyihatkan tubuh badan peserta terlibat.

"Seperti ungkapan popular generasi zaman kini, 'healing' iaitu interaksi langsung dengan alam semula jadi juga mempunyai kesan positif terhadap kesejahteraan mental dan emosi peserta.

"Ia juga memberikan pengalaman yang bermakna dan membangun kepekaan terhadap



SEBAHAGIAN mahasiswa UiTM yang terlibat menjayakan program Penanaman 1,000 Pokok Bakau 1 RAS 1 Pokok di Hutan Simpan Kapar Tambahan, Jeram, Kuala Selangor.

Siswa UiTM tanam 1,000 pokok bakau



PARA peserta menanam anak pokok bakau di sekitar kawasan paya.

keindahan alam sekitar.

"Kejayaan program ini menjadi contoh terbaik bagaimana kerjasama bersepadu daripada pelbagai pihak dapat memberikan impak besar terhadap usaha pemuliharaan alam sekitar," katanya.

Tambah Amani Nisa, dia berharap program itu akan terus diperkukuhkan dan dijadikan contoh bagi inisiatif serupa pada masa akan datang.

Dengan penglibatan lebih 130 orang peserta termasuk mahasiswa UiTM Shah Alam, sukarelawan dan wakil masyarakat setempat, program itu berhasil mencapai matlamat utamanya iaitu menanam 1,000 anak pokok bakau.

Penanaman bakau bukan sahaja memberi impak positif kepada alam sekitar secara keseluruhan, malah menyokong inisiatif nasional iaitu Program Penghijauan Malaysia: Kempen

Penanaman 100 Juta Pokok 2021-2025.

Menerusi program itu, para peserta termasuk mahasiswa dan masyarakat setempat telah diberi peluang untuk memperoleh pengalaman praktikal dalam penyediaan anak pokok bakau.

Hal ini tidak hanya memperkukuhkan hubungan antara manusia dan alam, malah memberi asas yang kukuh kepada usaha pemuliharaan alam sekitar pada masa hadapan.

Selain dari aspek penyediaan anak pokok bakau, program itu juga memberi penekanan kepada kepentingan menjaga flora dan fauna terutama dalam konteks hutan paya bakau.

Dengan adanya program itu, peserta diberi peluang untuk memahami betapa pentingnya kepelbagaian biologi di ekosistem pantai.

Namun, kejayaan program tersebut tidak hanya terletak pada pencapaian matlamat penanaman bakau semata-mata. Ini kerana, usaha yang dilakukan itu turut memberi pendedahan kepada masyarakat tentang kepentingan pokok bakau dalam pemuliharaan alam sekitar.

Program itu turut menganjurkan aktiviti tambahan seperti Kutip Sampah Sambil Riadah (Kudrah) yang bertujuan untuk menggalakkan kesedaran tentang kebersihan alam sekitar.

Pendedahan berkenaan penting untuk menggalakkan sikap bertanggungjawab terhadap alam sekitar dan mengelakkan kemusnahan ekosistem yang semakin serius.

Sementara itu, penasihat RAS UiTM SC, Ts. Nur Ain Mohd. Zainudin menjelaskan, program tersebut penting untuk memberikan kesedaran kepada masyarakat tentang kepentingan pemuliharaan alam sekitar, khususnya kelestarian hutan paya bakau.

Katanya, dengan melibatkan mahasiswa dan masyarakat setempat, program itu tidak hanya menanam pokok bakau, malah menyampaikan pesan penting tentang tanggungjawab kita terhadap alam sekitar.

"Kesesuaian program ini dengan Matlamat Pembangunan Lestari (SDGs) yang dirangka oleh Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu menunjukkan kesungguhan UiTM dalam menyokong agenda pembangunan mampan," jelasnya.

PROGRAM menanam pokok itu turut diisi dengan aktiviti mengutip sampah.

Pengeluaran maksimum Akaun Fleksibel RM250 sehari

Oleh RASDAN AHMAD

PETALING JAYA – Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) menetapkan had maksimum pengeluaran wang daripada Akaun Fleksibel secara terus

sebanyak RM250 sehari.

Menerusi aplikasi KWSP i-Akaun semalam, agensi itu juga memaklumkan pencarum boleh membuat pindahan wang ke akaun bank sekali sehari dengan minimum RM50.

Bagaimanapun, mereka yang ingin mengeluarkan wang lebih RM250 perlu melalui proses e-KYC secara dalam talian atau menggunakan alternatif lain seperti mengunjungi pejabat KWSP terdekat bagi pengesahan cap jari.

"Proses e-KYC (electronic Know-Your-Customer) atau satu proses pengesahan identiti secara elektronik melalui teknologi pengesanan wajah di aplikasi KWSP i-Akaun.

"Sebelum ini, KWSP mengu-

mumkan inisiatif Penstrukturan Semula Akaun KWSP dengan semua akaun ahli di bawah umur 55 tahun akan distruktur semula kepada tiga akaun iaitu Akaun Persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera dan Akaun Fleksibel," jelas KWSP.

KOSMO

Tarikh: 13 MAY 2024

Serbu pejabat KWSP keluarkan wang

DARI MUKA 1

Di Alor Setar, seorang pencarum, Noor Zanariah Yaakob, 33, dari Changlun berkata, dia bersama dua rakannya ke pejabat KWSP untuk mendapatkan maklumat lanjut berkaitan urusan pemindahan wang berkenaan.

"Datang sebab tidak berapa pasti cara nak pindah duit daripada Akaun Sejahtera. Di sini kami diberi tunjuk ajar, mudah dan sudah selesai urusan. Sekarang tunggu duit masuk ke dalam akaun ketiga sahaja."

"Saya tidak mahu melengahkan pemindahan ini sebab memerlukan wang untuk keluarga."

"Ini satu langkah yang baik, daripada orang ramai pinjam duit along, lebih baik ambil duit mereka sendiri," katanya ketika ditemui semalam.

Seorang operator kilang, Aziz Ahmad, 45, memberitahu, dia tidak mahu melepaskan peluang semata-mata mahu menguruskan pemindahan akaun tersebut.

"Adalah sedikit wang dalam akaun kedua saya itu yang boleh dipindahkan dan digunakan bagi keperluan keluarga termasuk keperluan sekolah anak-anak," ujarnya dari Pendang.

Bagi K. Lechumy, 50, pula, dia tidak mahu melepaskan peluang untuk memindahkan wang itu yang ingin digunakan untuk perbelanjaan anak di universiti.

"Ada anak saya yang masih belajar di universiti dan memerlukan banyak wang, jadi saya keluarkan wang ini untuk keperluan mereka. Rasa lega sangat tidak perlu lagi memikirkan macam mana nak cari wang," katanya.

Dalam pada itu, seorang kakitangan pejabat KWSP di Alor Setar berkata, terdapat pencarum yang datang ke pejabat berkenaan seawal subuh.

"Kami datang awal untuk membuat persiapan dan saya lihat ada yang sudah menunggu di pagar seawal subuh walaupun pejabat dibuka pada pukul 8.30 pagi," katanya.

Di Kota Bharu, lebih 200 pencarum datang ke pejabat KWSP sebelum premis dibuka dan



NOOR ZANARIAH (kanan) bersama dua rakannya menunjukkan risalah permohonan pemindahan caruman di pejabat KWSP Alor Setar semalam.



ORANG ramai membuat urusan pemindahan caruman di kaunter pejabat KWSP, Kuala Terengganu semalam.

sanggup beratur panjang.

Seorang pencarum, Siti Maizatul Adnan, 25, berkata, dia ke pejabat KWSP untuk membuat semakan kelayakan simpanan di Akaun Sejahtera sebelum dipindahkan ke akaun baharu.

"Saya difahamkan, proses pemindahan simpanan itu mengambil masa selama lima hari sebelum pemindahan wang

ke Akaun Fleksibel. Jumlah wang pula bergantung simpanan sedia ada," ujarnya.

Siti Azmira Khazmi, 37, pula berkata, pemindahan simpanan ke Akaun Fleksibel disifatkan sebagai langkah awal untuk melakukan pengeluaran apabila berlaku kecemasan.

"Langkah ini sangat perlu terutamanya semasa kecemasan.



KERATAN Kosmo! 26 April 2024.

Simpanan dalam Akaun Fleksibel boleh digunakan pada bila-bila masa selepas ini," ujarnya.

Di Kuala Terengganu, rata-rata pencarum yang ditemui mahu memindahkan caruman mereka dalam Akaun Sejahtera ke Akaun Fleksibel.

Zairul Hambali, 45, berkata, dia sanggup beratur panjang di pejabat KWSP asalkan dapat keterangan jelas daripada pegawai.

"Akaun Fleksibel ini perkara baharu, jadi saya perlu penjelasan lanjut. Kalau lakukan menerusi aplikasi, saya takut tersilap," ujarnya.

Tambahnya, dia mahu segera memindahkan wang ke Akaun Fleksibel agar dapat digunakan segera bagi menampung kos

Penstrukturan Semula Akaun KWSP

● Pada 11 Mei 2024, semua akaun KWSP ahli di bawah umur 55 tahun akan distruktur semula kepada Akaun Persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera dan Akaun Fleksibel

● Baki dalam Akaun 1 dan Akaun 2 masing-masing akan kekal dalam Akaun Persaraan dan Akaun Sejahtera, manakala Akaun Fleksibel akan bermula dengan baki sifar

● Semua caruman selepas 11 Mei 2024 akan diperuntukan ke dalam akaun baharu mengikut pecahan iaitu 75 peratus ke dalam Akaun Persaraan, Akaun Sejahtera (15 peratus) dan Akaun Fleksibel (10 peratus)

● Di antara 11 Mei 2024 dan 31 Ogos 2024, ahli diberi pilihan sekali sahaja untuk memindahkan sebahagian daripada baki simpanan dalam Akaun Sejahtera atau Akaun 2 sebagai amalan permulaan ke dalam Akaun Fleksibel

● Jika ahli tidak membuat pilihan untuk mempunyai amalan permulaan, tiada sebarang pindahan akan dibuat dan baki sedia ada kekal dalam Akaun Sejahtera

● Sekiranya baki dalam Akaun Sejahtera adalah RM3,000 dan ke atas, 10/30 daripada baki dalam akaun itu akan dipindahkan ke Akaun Fleksibel, manakala 5/30 daripada baki lagi dipindahkan ke Akaun Persaraan dan 15/30 kekal dalam Akaun Sejahtera

sara hidup.

Yaakob Md. Ali, 48, berkata, dia mahu memindahkan carumahnya itu sebagai persiapan jika anak sulungnya melanjutkan pelajaran ke institusi pengajian tinggi (IPT).

"Keputusan peperiksaan Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) akan diumumkan 27 Mei ini, insya-Allah jika rezeki anak saya, dia akan mula masuk IPT beberapa bulan kemudian," katanya.

KOSMO

13 MAY 2024

Tarikh:

Rimas pasar Klang kotor, warga asing berlambak



KEBANJIRAN warga asing di pasar Klang membuatkan sebahagian penduduk tempatan tertanya-tanya adakah mereka mempunyai dokumen yang sah. — GAMBAR HIASAN

SAUDARA PENGARANG,

SELAKU rakyat Malaysia, saya amat kesal dengan keadaan yang berlaku di Klang, Selangor ketika ini yang dipenuhi oleh warga asing di mana-mana.

Pada 5 Mei lalu, saya telah pergi ke pasar Klang untuk membeli keperluan dan keadaan sangat sesak dengan warga asing India, Bangladesh, Indonesia dan Pakistan. Melalui pengamatan saya, kebanyakan mereka menyewa rumah kedai berhampiran dengan pasar.

Keadaan pasar Klang yang kotor terutama bahagian tangga, restoran di tingkat atas dan di gerai. Seharusnya lantai hendaklah dicuci dengan kerap

dan tidak sekadar menyapu.

Rasa jijik bila makan di gerai yang ada najis kucing.

Salah satu faktor yang menyebabkan mereka ramai di situ ialah dengan kewujudan restoran 24 jam yang ada di sekitar jalan Kebun di Seksyen 30, Shah Alam. Saya memohon supaya pihak berkuasa segera menjalankan pemeriksaan terhadap mereka.

Lebih jijik apabila ada anjing liar yang masuk ke dalam pasar terutama di bahagian jualan sayur dan buah-buahan. Ini najis. Mohon siasatan dan operasi jika perlu.

ANTI KOTOR
Klang, Selangor

KOSMO

13 MAY 2024

Tarikh: