



PENGURUSAN PEMANTAUAN KERATAN AKHBAR MBSJ
TARIKH: 15 MAC 2024 (JUMAAT)

MEDIA ELEKTRONIK (AKHBAR ONLINE / TELEVISYEN / RADIO)

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	MARKET TRADERS AND F&B OPERATORS URGED TO DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY

MEDIA CETAK (AKHBAR / MAJALAH)

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LAIN-LAIN PBT

BIL	AKHBAR	PBT	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	DBKL MBSA DBKL MBSA	- DRAFT PLAN MATTERS - COMPOUND DISCOUNT - COUNCIL NOTICES - ATHLETICS TRAINING

UMUM

BIL	AKHBAR	TAJUK
1.	THE STAR	- LAND OFFICE TO SHUT DOWN CAVE EATERY - A LOOK AT MALAYSIA'S LEGAL MILESTONES FOR GENDER EQUALITY - THE BALLOONING COST OF PENSION PAYMENTS - LIMESTONE FOOTHILLS DEVELOPMENT MUST FOLLOW SET GUIDELINES' - STATES ON THE LOOKOUT FOR OPEN BURNING - TENS OF THOUSANDS OF SCHOOLKIDS ARE SMOKERS
2.	KOSMO	- BAYARAN PENCEN MENINGKAT RM1 BILION SETIAP TAHUN - PROGRAM SASAR BANTU USAHAWAN WANITA
3.	SINAR HARIAN	- JUMLAH MISKIN TEGAR DIKETAHUI SELEPAS PADU DIKEMAS KINI - AMALKAN BUDAYA BAWA BEKAS SENDIRI KE BAZAR RAMADAN
4.	HARIAN METRO	- JUMLAH MISKIN TEGAR DIKETAHUI SELEPAS SISTEM PADU DIKEMASKINI - TAWAR PEMBIAYAAN CASH-I FSA2
5.	BERITA HARIAN	- KERAJAAN KAJI SEMULA GAJI MINIMUM TAHUN INI - BAYARAN PENCEN MENINGKAT LEBIH RM1B SETIAP TAHUN - SYOR HANYA SATU PENCEN JIKA PEGANG BANYAK JAWATAN DISOKONG - SKIM PERSARAAN BAHARU PENJAWAT AWAM KURANG BEBAN KEWANGAN
6.	NEW STRAITS TIMES	- VETERANS WHO ACRIFICED MUCH STILL WAITING FOR PENSION ADJUSTMENT - SIM: MINIMUM WAGE TO BE REVIEWED THIS YEAR - PENSION PAYOUT UP BY RM1B YEARLY'
7.	THE SUN	- CALL TO RETHINK FLEXIBLE WORKING HOURS PLAN FOR WOMEN - SELANGOR SULTAN RECEIVES RM10.8M IN BUSINESS TITHES

Market traders and F&B operators urged to dispose of waste properly

TRADERS at Taman Universiti Indah morning market and its surrounding restaurant operators are urged to be more mindful when disposing waste in the Seri Kembangan commercial area in Selangor.

Subang Jaya City Council (MBSJ) Zone 21 councillor Suzanah Hanim Wong said this after a site visit following a one-day operation to clean clogged drains around the market.

She said it took two hours to remove all the gunk from the drain for water to flow.

"We have received complaints about clogged drains since August last year, but the problem has existed long before that.



Siew Ki (left) and Suzanah inspecting a drain around the Taman Universiti Indah morning market two weeks after the clean-up operation.

"The drains were clogged until surface level and the water was stagnant.

"I followed up on the matter twice with MBSJ's Environmental Management Department (JPAS).

"On Feb 27, a JPAS and KDEB Waste Management (KDEBWM) crew were sent to clean the drains around the morning market," said Suzanah.

The RM5,000 cost for the joint operation went towards paying for a cleaning crew of six workers, high pressure water jetter and roll-on, roll-off (RoRo) bins.

Suzanah said the waste removed from drains included food packaging, plastic bags, and oil.

Speaking during a press conference at the site, she said the operation was delayed because KDEBWM had limited equipment and there was a queue requesting for its services.

Seri Kembangan assemblyman Wong Siew Ki urged market traders and restaurant operators to step up and keep the environment clean.

"They need to clean grease traps daily, not throw rubbish into drains," she said.

"Both Selangor and MBSJ spend a lot of money on cleaning and waste management," she said.

"If citizens and business operators play their role, the money from cleaning and waste management can be used for development or welfare projects."

Siew Ki said she planned to follow up on the issue of illegal dumpsites, such as at Taman Bukit Serdang in Section 5, Seri Kembangan.

"Selangor spends millions of ringgit to remove the waste and treat the soil to ensure it is safe," she said, adding that illegal dumpsites were often found on private or reserve land.

Market traders and F&B operators urged to dispose of waste properly

By JADE CHAN
jade@thestar.com.my

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WATCH THE VIDEO

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15 MAR 2021
Tarikh:.....

THE STAR

15 MAR 2024

Tarikh:.....

DRAFT PLAN MATTERS

April 1 is the last day for Kuala Lumpur stakeholders to view and give their feedback on the draft Kuala Lumpur Local Plan 2040 at Menara DBKL 1 at Jalan Raja Laut and Menara DBKL 3 at Jalan Raja Abdullah. The plan is also available online for viewing and feedback at <https://ppkl.dbkl.gov.my>

COMPOUND DISCOUNT

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) is offering a RM20 flat rate for parking compounds until April 9. It is also offering a 70% discount for non-parking related compounds. Payments can be made at the main counter and drive-through payment counter at Wisma MBSA and branch offices. For details, call 03-5513 3919 or visit mymbssa.gov.my

COUNCIL NOTICES

> Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) is activating a trial run of traffic lights at Bulatan Dato Onn until April 7.

Motorists must adhere to traffic light signals and instructions from the traffic police at the roundabout. For details, call 03-2028 2280 or email jpb@dbkl.gov.my

> Ampang Jaya Municipal Council (MPAJ) is organising a collection drive for used clothing. Items can be dropped off at the bins placed at Pusat Kitar Semula MPAJ in Jalan Kolam Ayer Lama or Menara MPAJ in Pandan Indah, Mondays to Fridays from 9am to 4pm. For details, call 03-4285 7044 or WhatsApp to 017-294 8155.

ATHLETICS TRAINING

Shah Alam City Council (MBSA) and Kelab Olahraga Shah Alam are collaborating for an athletics development programme. The Shah Alam Track and Field Academy is offering training by qualified coaches in categories such as sprints (100m to 400m), long distance running (800m and above), hurdles, walks, long and triple jumps, shot put, discus and javelin. Sessions will be on Mondays and Thursdays, from 5pm to 6.15pm, at Shah Alam National Sports Complex (Panasonic Stadium). The programme starts on April 22 and costs RM50 per month. It is open to schoolgoing children and adults aged 18 and above. For details, WhatsApp 019-202 1220 or email athleticsshahalam@gmail.com. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/ysr9a9f7>

Land office to shut down cave eatery

Food court proprietor to be evicted from 400-million-year-old Swamp Cave

By BAVANI M and SHALINI RAVINDRAN
metro@thestar.com.my

AN EVICTION notice is to be issued to a food court proprietor running a business inside a 400-million-year-old limestone cave in Gombak, Selangor.

Gombak District and Land Office (PDTG) director Nor Azlina Abdul Aziz said the decision was made following an investigation at the Gua Lepak food court.

She confirmed that the food court was located on Selangor government land.

An eviction notice, Nor Azlina said, would be issued under Section 425 of the National Land Code 1965.

"The cave and its surroundings are gazetted as Batu Caves reserve.

"PDTG can confirm that the operator has never applied for permission from any local authority (PDTG or Selayang Municipal Council) to carry out activities there.

"No approval or permission was given to the operator to occupy and carry out activities at the site," said Nor Azlina.

She added that Section 425 addresses the unlawful occupation on state, reserved or mining land.

It stipulates that any person without lawful authority occupying or erecting a building, clearing, ploughing, digging or cultivating on state, reserved or mining land commits an offence.

Violators could face a fine not exceeding RM500,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

The individual had been operating the food court at the cave since last March.

The encroachment issue was highlight-

by The Star
EXCLUSIVE

ed by *StarMetro* in a front-page report on March 11 titled "Food court in Gombak cave stirs up concerns".

Since Monday, many parties have expressed concern over the encroachment as it can jeopardise Selangor's bid for it to be recognised as a Unesco Global Geopark.

The Department of Minerals and Geosciences Malaysia (JMG) confirmed that it did not receive any application from the operators or local council for any proposed activities to be carried out in the cave.

Minerals and Geosciences director-general Datuk Zamri Ramli said the department was not consulted to review the technical aspects of proposed business activities or any activities being carried out in the cave.

"According to procedures, applicants must submit proposals to the local authority," he said in a press statement.

"The local authority must request technical reviews for such proposal from JMG, which is one of the state technical agencies."

He added that any proposed development taking place in or within a limestone hill must be based on JMG's "Guideline for Determination of Hazard Zone at Limestone Area" for determination of safety zones.

Zamri said the media had raised con-



Although humid, the low ceiling of the cave interior gives Gua Lepak a cosy vibe.
— SHAARI CHEMAT/The Star

cerns several times about the Gua Lepak food court operating in the limestone cave, also known as Swamp Cave.

Among the issues raised, he said, concerned visitors' safety, risk of geological disasters, conservation of fossils on-site, legitimacy of the restaurant's operations, vandalism risks, disruption of endemic biodiversity as well as preservation and sustainability issues related to the geosite, which is part of the Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark (GHL Geopark).

"In the context of the geopark development, community well-being and generating local economic activities are essential elements adding value to a geopark.

"However, this value-added activity must align with the concept of geopark

development, which involves three key elements – conservation, education and sustainable development.

"The JMG strongly recommends that the National Geopark Development Plan 2021-2030 and National Geopark Implementation Plan, decided upon for adoption at the 42nd National Physical Planning Council Meeting, be used for every geopark development," he added.

When contacted, planning expert Derek Fernandez said further steps could be taken to list the cave area as a national heritage site under the National Heritage Act 2005 (Act 645) to impose restrictions.

"In addition to this, the local authority can include the cave area in its local plan for its protection," he said.

A look at Malaysia's legal milestones for gender equality

DESPITE Malaysia's impressive female literacy rate and growing participation in the workforce, challenges remain. To understand the current landscape and future possibilities, we must examine our country's legal journey on women's rights.

Malaysia's accession to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw) in 1995 marked a significant turning point for women's rights in the country. This international commitment served as a catalyst that propelled Malaysia forward on the path towards gender equality, ushering in a wave of legal reforms aimed at dismantling discriminatory laws and practices against women in both public and private spheres.

Before this, legal protections for women were scarce, with limited recourse beyond the Penal Code, and Article 8(1) of the Federal Constitution, which guarantees equality before the law.

The introduction of Article 8(2) in 2001, explicitly prohibiting gender discrimination, signalled a monumental shift in legislative attitudes.

Since then, Malaysia has moved from a landscape with limited legal protections for women to one that's actively dismantling discriminatory practices. But let's not mistake progress for completion. While strides have been taken, achieving absolute protection for Malaysian women remains an ongoing endeavour.

What we have achieved so far:

1. **Anti-Sexual Harassment Act 2022 (Act 840)**

Nearly two decades in the making, this landmark legislation finally became reality with the combined efforts of MPs from both sides of the aisle. Previously, women had to navigate a complex web of laws, including the Penal Code, Employment Act, and Communications and Multimedia Act, often yielding unsatisfactory results due to weak provisions and lengthy court proceedings.

Under the Act, "sexual harassment" is properly defined for the first time in Malaysia law. It is defined as "any unwanted conduct of a sexual nature, in any form, whether verbal, non-verbal, visual, gestural or physical, directed at a person, which is reasonably offensive or humiliating or is a threat to his well-being".

"Celebrating progress is crucial, but the fight for women's rights in Malaysia is far from over."

It establishes a dedicated Tribunal to address complaints of sexual harassment, empowering women to seek compensation and redress within a two-month time frame.

2. **Amendment to the Employment Act 1955 (Act 265)**

The 2022 amendments introduced a new provision (Section 69F) specifically addressing employment discrimination. This empowers the director-general of Labour to make direct inquiries into any employee-employer dispute concerning discrimination in employment, and to make decisions and orders thereof, with the aim to promote better protection for workers, particularly women, in line with international labour standards and Cedaw.

Before the amendment, Malaysian women facing discrimination in the workplace had limited legal recourse. Existing laws like the Employment Act offered some protection, but they often lacked specific provisions addressing gender discrimination. The burden of proof also often rested heavily on the employee experiencing discrimination.

3. **Anti-Stalking Laws in the Penal Code (Act 574)**

Stalking, a pervasive and often terrifying experience, lacked a clear definition in the Penal Code. This meant that seemingly innocuous actions, like repeated compliments or unwanted attention, couldn't be addressed by law enforcement. Existing sections of the Penal Code, such as those related to physical contact (Section 354 & 355) or lewd comments (Section 509), fell short of delivering women from prolonged fear and distress caused by stalking. The lack of a legal definition had left many women vulnerable to repeated harassment with few

legal options available.

Thankfully, a crucial step forward was taken on March 29, 2023, with the amendment of the Penal Code. The introduction of Section 507A now defines stalking as "the repeated act of harassment, which is intended or is likely to cause distress, fear, or alarm to any person for their safety". This broader definition encompasses a wider range of behaviours, both physical and online, that can cause significant emotional distress to the victim.

4. **Abolition of Section 498 of the Penal Code**

Not all laws are made by Parliament. Sometimes, we see case law establish new precedents and strike down unfair or unconstitutional laws. Under Tun Tengku Maimun Tuan Mat, our very first woman Chief Justice, it is no coincidence that the current lineup of the Federal Court is said by some to be among the most progressive in Malaysia's history.

This progressive stance was evident in a landmark ruling on Dec 15, 2023 when the Federal Court struck down Section 498 of the Penal Code as unconstitutional. This section previously penalised any man who entices away a woman that he knows is already married to another man.

However, Chief Justice Tengku Maimun ruled that Section 498 violated the Federal Constitution's Article 8(2) guaranteeing equality before the law. The critical flaw was that only husbands could use this provision, discriminating against women who couldn't seek legal recourse if their husbands were enticed by another woman.

Celebrating progress is crucial, but the fight for women's rights in Malaysia is far from over. There are still critical gaps in the legal framework that leave many women vulnerable to abuse and limit their ability to live safe and fulfilling lives.

Our journey toward legal advancements for women's rights hasn't always been linear. A recent example highlights this challenge. Recently, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced plans to table legal amendments this month that would replace the term "whose father" with "parents or at least one of the parents" in Parts I and II of the Federal Constitution's Second Schedule,

slated for presentation in Parliament this month.

However, this optimism quickly turns to dismay when we consider the fact that the proposed amendment, while empowering women, was bundled with potentially regressive measures that could jeopardise citizenship rights of marginalised members of society, including foundlings, orphans, children born out of wedlock and adopted children.

Among the proposed amendments are revisions to the Second Schedule, Part II Section 1(e), which currently grants citizenship by operation of law to every stateless person born in Malaysia, and Second Schedule, Part III, Section 19(b), which affects abandoned children.

Under the proposed changes, granting citizenship would be solely at the discretion of the Home Ministry, removing the current automatic pathway for those meeting the criteria outlined in the Second Schedule.

While I appreciate the positive strides made by this amendment package in advancing women's rights, no woman could possibly endorse it in good conscience if it comes at the expense of further marginalising other vulnerable groups. We therefore urge the government to consider decoupling the proposed amendments.

Separating the women's rights amendments would allow for their swift implementation while allowing for further discussion and refinement of any provisions that might negatively impact marginalised communities.

As we approach the 30th anniversary of Cedaw next year, it's crucial to reflect on our achievements and identify the remaining legal gaps impacting women, both in their roles as mothers and as professionals.

These vital reforms are deeply personal to me. As a woman in both politics and law, I'm fiercely committed to advocating and championing them. It's about empowering not just women but every Malaysian bar none to thrive and contribute equally in our society. Let's keep the conversation going and work together to build a future where equality for all is a reality.

CHAN QUIN ER
MCA Publicity Bureau
chairperson

THE STAR
Tarikh: 11 5 MAR 2024

The ballooning cost of pension payments

Star
5/3

KUALA LUMPUR: The government paid out a whopping RM116.7bil to pensioners from 2020 to 2023, says Dr Zaliha Mustafa.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department said the pension payments covered retired civil servants, MPs, administrative personnel, political secretaries and judges.

She said RM26.39bil was paid out to 859,422 pensioners in 2020; RM28.04bil to 878,441 pensioners in 2021; and RM30.26bil to 902,999 pensioners in 2022.

"A total of RM32.01bil was paid

out to 931,707 pensioners in 2023," the Federal Territories Minister said in a written reply to a question by Jerantut MP Khairil Nizam Khirudin in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday.

In response to Subang MP Wong Chen, Dr Zaliha said the government is expected to fork out an additional RM14.35bil as pension payments over the next seven years.

"Pension benefits will increase annually. In 2023, pension benefits totalled RM32.01bil and are expected to reach as high as RM46.36bil in 2030 and RM120bil

by 2040," she added.

She said the current contract appointments are an interim measure pending the introduction of a new permanent appointment system for civil servants.

"The interim contract appointments will not exceed three years before the officer is appointed permanently without undergoing the appointment process again," she added.

Dr Zaliha said the new appointment scheme will allow the government to save in terms of pension payments in the long term to ensure better management of sus-

tainable finances for the nation.

Meanwhile, in a written reply to Bagan Serai MP Datuk Idris Ahmad, Dr Zaliha gave her assurance that all current federal and state civil servants who are serving on a permanent basis and have opted for a pension will continue to receive the benefits under the Pension Act even after the new appointment scheme is introduced.

In a circular on Jan 15, Public Service Department (PSD) director-general Datuk Seri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz said a new method for the permanent

appointment of civil servants would be introduced to strengthen the public service remuneration system in Malaysia.

It was previously reported that the move was aimed at improving the civil service salary structure system, which is expected to be announced during the tabling of Budget 2025 this year.

The proposed improvements are expected to be finalised and presented to the Cabinet for approval at the beginning of the second quarter of this year at the latest, PSD said in a statement on Feb 15.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 5 MAR 2024

'Limestone foothills development must follow set guidelines'

PUTRAJAYA: Any development in the foothills of limestone ranges must adhere to the "Guideline for Determination of Hazard Zone at Limestone Area" issued by the Department of Minerals and Geoscience (JMG), says director-general Datuk Zamri Ramli.

This was to establish safety zones in the vicinity, he said.

In the context of geopark development, he said the well-being of the residents and the economic empowerment of the local community are essential elements that can enhance the value of a geopark.

"However, these value-added activities must align with the concept of geopark development, which involves three key elements: conservation, education and sustainable development," he emphasised in a statement yesterday, as reported by Bernama.

The statement addressed the presence of Restoran Gua Lepak, situated within a limestone cave in Bolton Industrial Park, Gombak, Selangor, which has garnered attention in local media reports on multiple occasions.

Issues raised encompass concerns regarding visitor safety, the potential for geological disasters, on-site fossil preservation, restaurant operation permits, risks of vandalism, disruption to endemic biodiversity, as well as conservation and sustainability of the geological site, which is an integral part of the Gombak-Hulu Langat Geopark.

Zamri said that JMG has not received any applications from business owners or local authorities to review the technical aspects of proposed business activities or any activities already conducted within the cave.

"According to the procedures practised in physical development, developers must submit proposals to the local authority, which in turn must seek JMG's technical reviews for the development proposal application," he explained.

He added that JMG highly recommends that the National Geopark Development Plan 2021-2030 and the National Geopark Implementation Plan, which were adopted during the 42nd National Physical Planning Council Meeting, be incorporated into every geopark development.



Conservation concerns: Issues raised about a restaurant within a limestone cave in Gombak, Selangor include concerns regarding safety, operation permits and conservation and sustainability of the geological site, among others. — SHAARI CHEMAT/The Star

THE STAR
15 MAR 2024
Tarikh:.....

States on the lookout for open burning

By WANI MUTHIAH
and IMRAN HILMY
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KLANG: The Selangor Department of Environment (DOE) has rolled out its action plan against open burning to counter smog and smoke pollution in the state.

Selangor DOE director Nor Aziah Jaafar said the action plan, which was kickstarted in February, included daily rounds and inspection by its officers.

"Our officers are going on their rounds after office hours daily to check on open burning in high risk areas such as peatland and dumpsites. We are also monitoring factories by carrying out night time inspection rounds but these are not done on a daily basis," said Nor Aziah.

She added Selangor's Air Pollutant Index (API) was still at a safe level at the moment.

"Besides closely monitoring the situation, we are also constantly reminding the public against carrying out open burning," she said.

"We will not be issuing an offi-

cial ban on open burning yet as the air in Selangor is still good and there were no untoward incidents reported," said Nor Aziah.

To a question if Selangor DOE was expecting any serious problems in regards to air quality any time soon, Nor Aziah said it was not easy to address that concern at the moment.

"When the weather is hot and dry, there will be incidents of fires whether it is done on purpose or otherwise.

"The API also depends on the scale of open burning.

"If it is small or if the open burning is localised, our station may not pick it up.

"All I can say is that there is potential for the API to become unhealthy during this period, especially if the source is coming from peatland and dumpsites," she said.

Meanwhile in Kedah, the public has been warned not to carry out any open burning during the current dry spell.

Kedah Environment Department director Sharifah Zakiah



Strong warning: The public has been cautioned not to carry out any open burning during the current dry spell.

Syed Sahab said her department is currently ramping up patrols across the state to catch offenders.

"Our aim is to investigate any activities that could result in environmental pollution and endanger public health.

"This includes scrutinising open burning, unauthorised

dumping of scheduled waste, discharge of effluent, and emissions exceeding set limits," she said.

She added that the patrols will primarily target industrial zones in Pendang, Sik and Yan.

Sharifah Zakiah said a lot of attention would be given to areas that are traditional hotspots for illegal waste disposal through

open burning, and those caught doing so can be punished under Section 29A of the Environmental Quality Act 1974, where offenders can be issued with a RM2,000 fine.

They can also be brought to court and fined up to RM500,000, or jailed for not more than five years, or both.

THE STAR

15 MAR 2024

Tarikh:.....

By MARTIN CARVALHO, ARFA YUNUS, BENJAMIN LEE, TARRENCE TAN and RAGANANTHINI VETHASALAM

9/15/3

Tens of thousands of schoolkids are smokers

KUALA LUMPUR: Over 38,000 pupils were found to be smokers after the Health Ministry screened over 1.54 million secondary school children across the country, says Deputy Health Minister Datuk Lukanisman Awang Sauni.

As for the 2.4 million primary school pupils screened, 374 were found to have picked up the habit, he said.

"All of these students have since been given intervention to curb their habit," he told the Dewan Rakyat here yesterday.

The health screening was done under the Oral Health Tobacco-Free (Kotak) programme last year.

Lukanisman said in cooperation with the Education Ministry, his ministry had also successfully trained 141 school counsellors and Pendidikan Pencegahan Dadah (anti-drug education) teachers on how to deal with these young tobacco users.

He said the prevalence of vaping among women was on the rise, from 2.8% in 2017 to 6.2% in 2022.

Replying to a question from Dr

Halimah Ali (PN-Kapar) on efforts to reduce cigarette and vape use among the youth, he said the ministry is looking to develop a plain packaging policy for these products.

"This includes vape product specifications, such as the shape of the products that would be allowed to be sold by the industry," he added.

Lukanisman said the ministry had also carried out 129 engagement sessions with non-governmental organisations and local

authorities on possible policies to curb smoking and vaping in open areas.

He called on MPs to set an example by refraining from smoking in open, public places.

"If we are truly serious about getting rid of vaping and smoking, it needs to start from us in Parliament.

"I urge all MPs to avoid vaping or smoking in premises like the Parliament building and to find a more suitable place instead," he said.

THE STAR

Tarikh: 15 MAR 2024

HIGH COST OF LIVING

Veterans who sacrificed much still waiting for pension adjustment

MILITARY veterans in their 50s to 90s have waited for their pension adjustments for more than a decade.

During that time, we have suffered the harsh realities of rising prices, trying hard to put food on the table, and do all kinds of jobs to keep our heads above water.

Many have died waiting in vain, the latest being Major Manan Abas

(R), who died at 100.

During the two-month jungle training stint, our veterans had only rations with them, and they were taught and supervised by instructors to set up camps with ponchos, blankets and hammocks to sleep.

They also had to cook, build field toilets and do sentry duties. They used river water to bathe,

wash, drink and cook.

Once in a while, they would hear the sounds of gunfire, as if they were under enemy attack.

And for good measure, they would hear the deafening sounds of mortar and artillery fire.

Some had never seen dead bodies with bullet holes and soaked in blood.

Some may have seen soldiers cry

and shout in pain upon stepping on booby traps, and having to wait for a helicopter's arrival to be sent to a hospital.

Amputation would normally be the end result. Some lost their eyes and limbs.

We have been patient for more than 10 years.

How many more of us would have to ride into the sunset

before this pension adjustment is approved?

I quote Major Mior Rosli (R) of the air force, who said: "We are not going against the government. We are just requesting what has been denied from us."

MAJOR MUSTAPHA ALI (R)

Royal Regiment of Artillery
Kuala Lumpur

NEW STRAITS TIMES
Tarikh: 15 MAR 2024

Sim: Minimum wage to be reviewed this year ^{15/3/24} _{WST}

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will review the minimum wage this year, taking into account the views of employers and employees, said Human Resources Minister Steven Sim.

"This year, based on the National Wage Consultative Council Act 2011, the minimum wage rate will be reviewed.

"We will take into account the views of all parties, including employers and employees, and refer to socio-economic reports such as those from Bank Negara."

Sim said this in his winding-up speech on the royal address debate, in a response to question from Rodiyah Sapiee (Gabungan Parti Sarawak-Batang Sadong).

Rodiyah had raised the issue of reviewing the minimum wage, as suggested by Bank Negara and the Employees Provident Fund's literacy initiative, Belanjawanku.

On Wednesday, the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) demanded the government review the minimum wage rate, fol-

lowing the Sales and Service Tax hike.

Its secretary-general, Kamarul Baharin Mansor, said the National Wages Consultative Council Act required a reassessment of the minimum wage every two years.

The last time the government had reviewed the minimum wage was in May 2022, increasing it from RM1,200 to RM1,500.

Last year, then human resources minister V. Sivakumar had said the review of the minimum wage by the National Wage

Consultation Technical Committee was 80 per cent complete.

In January, Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said he would initiate the process of formulating policies for the 13th Malaysia Plan this year, with the progressive wage pol-

icy being one of the components in the five-year plan.

He had said the formulation and focus of the policies would be related to labour market reforms, and would be developed in collaboration with other ministries.



Steven Sim

RETIREMENT BENEFIT LIABILITY

'PENSION PAYOUT UP BY RM1B YEARLY'

5/3/24
NGX

Minister: RM32.01b
spent on retired
civil servants
in 2023, from
RM30.26b in 2022

KUALA LUMPUR

THE government's public pension liability, which includes payouts to retirees from the civil service, members of parliament and administration officials, political secretaries and judges, increases by over RM1 billion annually.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Federal Territories) Dr Zaliha Mustafa said the government paid RM32.01 billion to 931,707 retirees last year, an increase of RM1.75 billion compared with the previous year's payment to 902,999 retirees.

She said in 2022, pensions amounting to RM30.26 billion were paid, an increase of RM2.22 billion compared with 2021,

when RM28.04 billion was paid to 878,441 retirees.

"In 2020, the government paid RM26.39 billion to 859,422 retirees," she said.

Dr Zaliha was responding to a question from Khairil Nizam Khirudin (Perikatan Nasional-Jerantut), who wanted to know the actual amount of pension payout to retired civil servants from 2020 to 2023 and the percentage of pension allocations from the total government expenditure.

Responding to a question from Wong Chen (Pakatan Harapan-Subang), she said the government's retirement benefit liability was projected to increase every year.

Dr Zaliha said in 2023, total expenditure on retirement benefits was RM32.01 billion, and this would reach RM46.36 billion by 2030 and RM120 billion by 2040.

She said to ensure the government could manage the country's financial expenditure sustainably, a new method of permanent appointment was being studied and was expected to provide long-term savings in terms

of pension liabilities.

"The interim contract appointment is a temporary step towards introducing a new permanent appointment method for officers in civil service.

"The duration of this interim contract appointment shall not exceed three years, after which the officers will be appointed permanently without the need for re-recruitment," she said.

Wong had asked about the amount of savings the government could achieve over the next 20 years when the pension system is replaced with contract-based recruitment for new appointments.

The government is looking into doing away with pensions for new recruits due to the scheme's increasingly high cost.

They will instead contribute to retirement schemes under the Employers' Provident Fund or Social Security Organisation.

In January, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said if the current practice of pensions for civil servants was not revised, the government would have to fork out RM120 billion by 2040.

Call to **rethink** flexible working hours plan for women

➤ Reducing salaries as trade-off will deepen existing gender wage gap, says NGO

■ BY **SIVANISVARRY MORHAN**
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PETALING JAYA: Reducing women's salaries as a trade-off for flexible working hours will deepen the existing gender wage gap in the country and reinforce traditional gender roles, said Sisters in Islam communications officer Aleza Othman.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's suggestion to introduce flexible working hours for female civil servants aims to address work-life balance challenges.

"While his intention is good, it unfortunately narrows the focus on women as the primary beneficiaries, and risks reinforcing traditional gender roles."

Aleza said it would also restrict opportunities for women's personal and professional growth as they prioritise family well-being, and lead to unequal distribution of responsibilities, with women burdened with caregiving duties and men pressured to fulfil breadwinning roles.

She said Anwar's suggestion also perpetuates the notion that women's work is inherently worth less than men's and solidifies the gender pay gap.

"Women are disproportionately affected

by such arrangements due to societal expectations and norms. Associating such flexibility with reduced compensation reinforces stereotypes about women's commitment and competence in the workplace.

"Consequently, reducing women's salaries in exchange for flexible hours will affect their financial stability as well."

Aleza said focusing only on women overlooks the diverse needs and responsibilities of individuals irrespective of gender, and potentially impedes the progress of achieving greater gender equality.

"It is important to also consider the needs of single fathers to ensure inclusivity and fairness as it boosts efforts towards achieving true gender equality."

"By acknowledging and accommodating the needs of single fathers, the proposal can better address the diverse caregiving responsibilities that individuals have, regardless of gender."

Universiti Malaya senior lecturer and coordinator for its gender studies programme Dr Lai Suat Yan said the suggestion is deficient as it perpetuates the stereotype that caregiving is solely a woman's responsibility.

"Despite being promoted as innovative,

the initiative is regressive as flexible working hours come with reduced pay. This approach fails to address the existing gender pay gap.

"Flexible working hours typically entail precarious conditions with less job security and lower salaries. It is disappointing that such a proposal is made on the occasion of International Women's Day."

Lai said there is a need for diverse working models that are tailored to different job requirements.

She advocated flexibility in work schedules, remote work options and compressed working hours.

"The gender wage gap in Malaysia remains a significant concern, with the country ranking 102nd among 146 countries assessed by the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap 2023 report.

"Therefore, it is crucial to develop the 'care economy' to support working parents and ensure adequate representation of women in higher management positions, rather than worsening gender inequality and the gender pay gap."

Lai said addressing structural issues such as unequal pay, financial instability and limited career advancements is crucial to achieving genuine gender equality in the workforce.

"Advocating a holistic approach that promotes shared caregiving responsibilities, supports working parents and challenges gender stereotypes can achieve genuine gender equality."

Selangor Sultan receives RM10.8m in business tithes

SHAH ALAM: The Sultan of Selangor Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah received business tithe contributions totalling RM10.8 million from four corporate companies during an *iftar* event here on Wednesday.

The four companies are Kumpulan Perangsang Selangor Berhad and its subsidiaries (RM5.05 million), Worldwide Holdings Berhad (RM2.82 million), Menteri Besar Selangor Incorporated (RM1.91 million) and Selangor Agricultural Development Corporation (RM1 million).

The contributions were the companies' business tithe payments for the financial year ending 2023.

Also in attendance at the event held at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Mosque were the Tengku Permaisuri of Selangor Tengku Permaisuri Norashikin and the Raja Muda of Selangor Tengku Amir Shah.

The Sultan also distributed Raya contributions to 430 recipients from the Petaling district comprising the needy and hardcore poor as well as new Muslim converts.

They received RM500 each, totalling RM215,000.

Sultan Sharafuddin signed a Diamond Jubilee plaque to commemorate the anniversary of the establishment of the Selangor Zakat Board.

In a statement, the board announced a significant increase in tithe collection in Selangor, from RM15.9 million in 1994 when it was established, to RM1.07 billion in 2022, reflecting a 17.7% annual increase rate.

Zakat distribution over 30 years also surged

to RM1.05 billion in 2022 compared with RM16.3 million three decades ago.

The Selangor Zakat Board has collected and distributed over RM10.5 billion over the past 30 years to alleviate the burden of tithe recipient groups.

Also present were Selangor Islami Religious Council chairman Tan Sri Abdul Aziz Mohd Yusof, the board's chairman Tan Sri Sye Anwar Jamalullail, deputy chairman Tan Sri Ambrin Buang and CEO Mohd Sabirin Mohd – Bernama

THE SUN
Tarikh: 15 MAR 2024

Kerajaan kaji semula gaji minimum tahun ini 5/2/24 34.

Kerajaan akan mengkaji semula gaji minimum tahun ini dengan mengambil kira pandangan semua pihak termasuk majikan.

Perkara itu dimaklumkan Menteri Sumber Manusia, Steven Sim, ketika menggulung perbahasan Titah Diraja bagi kementeriaannya di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

"Untuk makluman, pada tahun ini, berpandukan Akta Majlis Perundangan Gaji Perundingan Gaji Negara 2011 (Akta 732), kadar gaji minimum akan dikaji semula.

"Kita akan mengambil kira pandangan semua pihak termasuk pihak majikan dan pekerja serta menjadikan rujukan laporan-laporan sosioekonomi seperti laporan Bank Negara yang dinyatakan oleh Yang Berhormat (YB) Batang Sadong," katanya.

Kenyataan itu sebagai reaksi kepada pertanyaan Rodiyah Sa-



Steven ketika menggulung perbahasan Titah Diraja di Dewan Rakyat semalam.

piee (GPS-Batang Sadong) yang membangkitkan isu berdasarkan cadangan Bank Negara dan projek Belanjawanku iaitu projek celik kewangan kelolaan Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pe-

kerja (KWSP).

Sementara itu Kementerian Sumber Manusia juga sedang meneliti keperluan untuk memperkenalkan skim perlindungan keselamatan sosial 24 jam khusus

untuk warga emas.

"Kementerian Sumber Manusia menyambut baik cadangan Yang Berhormat (YB) Bandar Kuching (Dr Kelvin Yii) agar dikaji dan dilaksanakan Insurans Jangka Panjang (LTCL) bagi penjaan warga emas.

"Sememangnya visi Kementerian Sumber Manusia adalah untuk memberi perlindungan keselamatan sosial 24 jam dan menyeluruh kepada kumpulan pekerja secara khususnya dan rakyat Malaysia secara amnya.

"Namun kita terpaksa mempertimbangkan pelbagai kekangan termasuk kos caruman setiap individu.

"Bagaimanapun, Kementerian Sumber Manusia sedang membuat penelitian dan kajian untuk memperkenalkan skim perlindungan keselamatan sosial 24 jam dan juga memperluaskan skim keselamatan sosial bagi penjaga-

an warga emas bagi menyokong agenda ekonomi ihsan Malaysia MADANI," katanya.

Perlu diperhalusi

Dalam sesi penggulangan itu, Steven turut mengulas mengenai syor untuk menggubal akta baharu termasuk meminda akta sedia ada berkaitan gaji graduan program Latihan Teknikal dan Vokasional (TVET).

Walaupun menyambut baik cadangan terbabit, beliau berpancangan ia perlu diteliti sedalam-dalamnya mengambil kira pandangan segenap pemegang taruh.

"Bagaimanapun, ia perlu dirancang secara cermat, dikaji keberkesananannya, diperhalusi dan dipertimbangkan selepas mengambil kira pandangan semua pemegang taruh terbabit serta persetujuan secara kolektif," katanya.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh 15 MAR 2024

Bayaran pencen meningkat lebih RM1b setiap tahun ^{15/3/23} B/H

Kuala Lumpur: Tanggungan kerajaan ke atas pembayaran pencen merangkumi pesara perkhidmatan awam, Ahli Parlimen dan anggota pentadbiran, setiausaha politik dan hakim meningkat lebih RM1 bilion setiap tahun.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa, berkata kerajaan membayar RM32.01 bilion kepada 931,707 pesara tahun lalu, meningkat RM1.75 bilion berbanding tahun sebelumnya yang dibayar kepada 902,999 pesara.

Beliau berkata, pada 2022 kerajaan membayar pencen sebanyak RM30.26 bilion, meningkat RM2.22 bilion berbanding 2021 yang dibayar kepada 878,441 pesara membabitkan bayaran RM28.04 bilion.

"Untuk 2020, kerajaan membayar RM26.39 bilion kepada 859,422 pesara," katanya dalam jawapan bertulis di Dewan Rakyat.

Beliau menjawab soalan Khairil Nizam Khirudin (PN-Jeran-

tut) yang bertanyakan jumlah sebenar pembayaran pencen kepada pesara penjawat awam yang terbabit pada 2020 sehingga 2023 dan peratusan penurunan pencen daripada keseluruhan perbelanjaan kerajaan.

Sementara itu, menjawab soalan Wong Chen (PH-Subang), Dr Zaliha berkata, tanggungan faedah persaraan kerajaan diunjurkan semakin meningkat setiap tahun.

Beliau berkata pada 2023, jumlah perbelanjaan faedah persaraan adalah sebanyak RM32.01 bilion dan dijangka akan mencecah RM46.36 bilion pada 2030 dan RM120 bilion menjelang 2040.

Sehubungan itu, katanya bagi memastikan kerajaan dapat menguruskan perbelanjaan kewangan negara dengan lebih mampan, satu kaedah baharu lantikan tetap sedang diteliti dan pelaksanaan kaedah baharu lantikan tetap dijangka akan dapat memberi penjimatan kepada kerajaan daripada segi tanggungan pencen dalam tempoh

jangka panjang.

"Lantikan Kontrak (Interim) adalah langkah sementara ke arah memperkenalkan kaedah baharu lantikan tetap pegawai perkhidmatan awam.

"Tempoh Lantikan Kontrak (Interim) ini adalah tidak lebih daripada tiga tahun sebelum pegawai dilantik secara tetap tanpa perlu melalui proses pengambilan semula," katanya.

Wong Chen bertanyakan jumlah kewangan yang dapat dijamin oleh kerajaan dalam jangka masa 20 tahun ke depan apabila sistem pencen penjawat awam digantikan dengan pengambilan secara kontrak bagi lantikan baru.

Teliti kaedah baharu

Menjawab soalan Datuk Siti Zailah Mohd Yusoff (PN-Rantau Panjang) berhubung dasar terkini kerajaan mengenai pencen kakitangan awam serta kajian kesan jangka panjang kepada pembangunan masyarakat dan negara, Dr Zaliha berkata pada masa ini, skim pencen bagi pe-

gawai yang sedang berkhidmat dan pesara sedia ada masih diteruskan, namun implikasi kewangan terhadap tanggungan faedah persaraan semakin meningkat setiap tahun.

Sehubungan itu, katanya memastikan kerajaan dapat menguruskan perbelanjaan kewangan negara dengan lebih mampan, kerajaan sedang meneliti kaedah baharu lantikan tetap dan akan membentangkan hasil kajian kepada Jemaah Menteri terlebih dahulu untuk pertimbangan dan kelulusan pelaksanaannya.

Menurutnya, kaedah baharu lantikan tetap yang bakal diperkenalkan oleh kerajaan adalah langkah berimpak besar ke arah menawarkan penyelesaian jangka panjang terhadap isu peningkatan tanggungan pencen perkhidmatan awam di samping memastikan kelangsungan serta kemampanan fiskal negara dalam membiayai perbelanjaan berkaitan emolumen dan faedah persaraan dinikmati penjawat awam.

"Pegawai baharu yang dilantik menerusi kaedah baharu akan menerima gaji, elaun dan kemudahan sama seperti yang dinikmati oleh pegawai lantikan tetap dan berpencen sedia ada.

"Ini termasuk apa-apa elaun tetap seperti Imbuhan Tetap Kerajaan (ITK) dan Imbuhan Tetap Perumahan (ITP), serta elaun lain yang layak kepada skim perkhidmatan dan tugas tertentu.

"Menerusi inisiatif di bawah Kajian Sistem Saraan Perkhidmatan Awam (SSPA), kerajaan turut memberi tumpuan kepada peningkatan pendapatan boleh guna penjawat awam seiring dengan peningkatan kos sara hidup semasa," katanya.

Di samping itu, katanya dengan pengenalan faedah persaraan baharu dan inisiatif di bawah Kajian SSPA, dijangka produktiviti pegawai awam akan meningkat, sekali gus mendorong mereka memberikan sumbangan yang optimum kepada perkhidmatan awam.

BERITA HARIAN
Tarikh...15...MAR...2024.....

Syor hanya satu pencen jika pegang banyak jawatan disokong

15/2/24
34

Pemimpin politik muda saran tetapkan mekanisme khusus, diperluaskan meliputi ADUN

Oleh, Muhammad Yusri Muzamir
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Kuala Lumpur: Beberapa pemimpin politik daripada kalangan generasi muda, secara dasarnya menyokong cadangan supaya ahli politik bertaraf wakil rakyat dan anggota Kabinet, hanya menerima satu pencen daripada beberapa jawatan disandang mereka ketika berkhidmat.

Malah, ada yang mencadangkan supaya peruntukan mengenai pencen wakil rakyat dalam Jadual Pertama Akta Ahli Parlimen (Saraan) 1980 (Akta 237) dipinda bagi memansuhkan faedah pemberhentian perkhidmatan anggota pentadbiran dan Ahli Parlimen.

Ada juga yang mencadangkan supaya kajian menyeluruh dibuat bagi menetapkan mekanisme khusus bagi skim pencen ahli

politik, selain mahu ia diperluas kepada wakil rakyat di peringkat Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN), selaras ketetapan memabitkan penjawat awam lantikan baharu.

Bekas Ketua Pemuda AMANAH yang juga Ahli Parlimen Hulu Langat, Sany Hamzan, mencadangkan supaya kajian menyeluruh dibuat bagi membolehkan penetapan khusus berkaitan pencen wakil rakyat diwujudkan, merangkumi kadar dan tempoh bersesuaian bagi menikmati faedah berkenaan.

"Ketetapan juga perlu dibuat bagi memastikan tiada pertindihan pencen bagi wakil rakyat, sama ada Ahli Parlimen, Ahli Dewan Negara, ADUN mahupun pesara kerajaan dipilih sebagai Ahli Parlimen, Ahli Dewan Negara atau ADUN.

"Kajian ini juga perlu meneliti sama ada wakil rakyat berkenaan perlu memilih kadar pencen paling tinggi, sederhana atau rendah memandangkan mereka berkemungkinan pernah menjawat beberapa jawatan sepanjang tempoh perkhidmatan," katanya kepada BH, semalam.

BH semalam, melaporkan beban kewangan kerajaan dapat dikurangkan jika ahli politik bertaraf wakil rakyat dan anggota Kabinet hanya menerima satu pencen daripada beberapa jawatan

pernah disandang mereka ketika berkhidmat.

Presiden CUEPACS, Datuk Dr Adnan Mat, dilaporkan berkata ketika ini ada kalangan bekas menteri yang turut menjadi Ahli Parlimen dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN) menerima pencen bagi setiap jawatan berkenaan.

Faedah pemberhentian

Sementara itu, bekas Menteri Belia dan Sukan yang juga Ahli Parlimen Muar, Syed Saddiq Syed Abdul Rahman, mengakui akan meminta pengecualian daripada menikmati faedah pemberhentian perkhidmatan anggota pentadbiran dan Ahli Parlimen, jika berpeluang berbuat demikian.

Namun, katanya, pengecualian itu hanya boleh dilakukan menerusi pindaan Akta 237, selain me-

maklumkan sudah mengemukakan usul persendirian bagi meminda Jadual Pertama Akta 237 baru-baru ini, tetapi ditolak Pejabat Yang Dipertua Dewan Rakyat.

Beliau berkata, usulnya ditolak atas alasan usul bagi memansuhkan faedah pencen Ahli Parlimen tidak boleh difailkan secara persendirian, sebaliknya perlu dikemukakan oleh anggota Kabinet.

"Saya tiada masalah untuk menolak faedah pencen Ahli Parlimen dan anggota pentadbiran, selain berpandangan tidak adil bagi wakil rakyat yang hanya berkhidmat beberapa penggal untuk menikmati faedah berkenaan.

"Kakitangan kerajaan perlu bekerja lebih 25 tahun untuk melayakkan mereka menikmati pencen dan tempoh perkhidmatan pekerja sektor awam lebih lama berbanding wakil rakyat.

"Malah, kadar pencen dinikmati wakil rakyat lebih tinggi berbanding jumlah faedah diterima pesara kerajaan. Justeru, terdapat keperluan untuk memansuhkan pencen ahli politik ini," katanya.

Ahli Dewan Negara yang juga Ketua Pemuda AMANAH, Mohd Hasbie Muda, pula mencadangkan supaya syor berkenaan diperluas kepada wakil rakyat di peringkat Dewan Undangan Negeri (DUN) memandangkan setiap negeri mempunyai perundangan berbeza mengenai pencen.

Beliau berkata, ia relevan untuk dilaksanakan, bertujuan mewujudkan keseimbangan dan keadilan biarpun jumlah pencen dinikmati wakil rakyat tidak signifikan berbanding keseluruhan faedah sama diterima kakitangan kerajaan.

"Kerajaan perlu adil jika mahu memansuhkan pencen, selain pelaksanaannya perlu menyeluruh dan tidak boleh ada *double standard* hanya kepada kakitangan kerajaan mahupun Ahli Parlimen semata-mata.

"Saya juga difahamkan isu pemansuhan pencen wakil rakyat kini di peringkat perbincangan dan dijangka dibentangkan ke Dewan Rakyat menjelang akhir tahun ini, sebelum dibawa ke Dewan Negara, jika ia diluluskan kelak," katanya.

"Ketetapan juga perlu dibuat bagi tiada pertindihan pencen bagi wakil rakyat, sama ada Ahli Parlimen, Ahli Dewan Negara, ADUN mahupun pesara kerajaan dipilih sebagai Ahli Parlimen, Ahli Dewan Negara atau ADUN"

Sany Hamzan,
Ahli Parlimen Hulu Langat





Skim persaraan baharu penjawat awam kurangkan beban kewangan

Polemik membabitkan isu pemansuhan pencen penjawat awam dilihat semakin hangat dan mewujudkan perdebatan terbuka terutama menyentuh jumlah pencen diterima bekas menteri, Ahli Parlimen dan Ahli Dewan Undangan Negeri (ADUN).

Ini kerana tanggungan kerajaan ke atas bayaran pencen bagi ahli politik, khasnya bekas anggota Kabinet dan EXCO meningkat kerana mereka menerima pencen untuk setiap jawatan disandang sebelum ini, berbanding penjawat awam yang hanya menerima satu pencen sahaja.

Atas faktor ini, Presiden CUEPACS, Datuk Dr Adnan Mat mencadangkan jika kerajaan mahu mengurangkan bebanan kewangan membayar pencen, bekas anggota Kabinet atau ADUN atau ahli politik seharusnya diberi hanya satu sahaja pencen.

Cadangan CUEPACS ini ada kewajarannya kerana ia menimbulkan persoalan rasional seorang bekas menteri, ahli politik atau EXCO menerima pencen bagi setiap jawatan disandang sebelum ini walaupun ia termaktub dalam Perlembagaan.

Jika seorang menteri pernah menyandang lebih daripada satu jawatan, bermakna dirinya akan menerima tiga bayaran pencen setiap bulan sedangkan ada antara mereka berkhidmat sebagai wakil rakyat dalam tempoh singkat atau sepele sahaja sekitar lima tahun, tetapi menerima pencen dalam jumlah tertentu untuk semua jawatan disandangnya.

Atas faktor ini, sudah tentu cadangan pemansuhan skim pencen penjawat awam menerima maklum balas negatif daripada rakyat terutama pesara penjawat awam kerana dilihat tidak adil kepada mereka kerana secara puratanya berkhidmat untuk negara melebihi 30 tahun sebelum layak menerima faedah saraan.

Amalan ini jelas membebaskan kewangan kerajaan. Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa mendedahkan tanggungan kerajaan ke atas pembayaran pencen untuk pesara kerajaan, Ahli Parlimen dan anggota pentadbiran, setiasa politik dan hakim meningkat lebih RM1 bilion setiap tahun.

Natijahnya, cadangan untuk memansuhkan pencen penjawat awam ini mendapat kritikan masyarakat sehingga mencadangkan pula supaya pemansuhan pencen itu dikuatkuasakan terlebih dulu kepada semua lantikan politik, bekas menteri, Ahli Parlimen dan ADUN.

Justeru, cadangan bagi penambahbaikan skim pencen yang bakal dibentangkan tidak lama lagi seharusnya mengambil kira atau perlukah orang politik menerima pencen bergantung kepada jawatan pernah disandang berbanding pencen diterima penjawat awam.

Semua pihak terutama penjawat awam sedang menunggu tiga agensi menjaga kebijakan pekerja, iaitu Kumpulan Wang Persaraan (Diperbadankan) (KWAP), Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) pada 18 Mac ini kepada kerajaan dan Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO) membentangkan skim persaraan pada 22 Mac.

Apa yang penting skim baharu bakal diterima dan dilaksanakan kerajaan nanti dapat menjamin anggota perkhidmatan awam masa depan mendapat skim lebih baik berbanding skim tetap dan berpencen sekarang serta pada masa sama mengurangkan beban kewangan kerajaan atau tidak berlaku pembaziran.

Bayaran pencen meningkat RM1 bilion setiap tahun

6/3/24
komo

KUALA LUMPUR – Tanggungan kerajaan ke atas pembayaran pencen penjawat awam merangkumi pesara perkhidmatan awam, ahli Parlimen dan anggota pentadbiran, setiausaha politik dan hakim meningkat lebih RM1 bilion setiap tahun.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr. Zaliha Mustafa berkata, kerajaan membayar RM32.01 bilion kepada 931,707 pesara tahun lalu, meningkat RM1.75 bilion berbanding tahun sebelum melibatkan 902,999 pesara.

Menurutnya, pada 2022, kerajaan membayar pencen RM30.26 bilion, meningkat RM2.22 bilion berbanding 2021 yang dibayar kepada 878,441 pesara membatikan bayaran RM28.04 bilion.

"Bagi tahun 2020, kerajaan membayar RM26.39 bilion ke-

pada 859,422 pesara," katanya menerusi jawapan bertulis kepada Khairil Nizam Khirudin (PN-Jerantut) berhubung jumlah sebenar pembayaran pencen kepada pesara penjawat awam pada tahun 2020 sehingga 2023.

Dalam pada itu, Zaliha memaklumkan, tanggungan faedah persaraan kerajaan diunjurkan semakin meningkat setiap tahun.

Jelasnya, pada 2023 jumlah perbelanjaan faedah persaraan sebanyak RM32.01 bilion dan dijangka mencecah RM46.36 bilion pada 2030 dan RM120 bilion menjelang 2040.

Ujarnya, kaedah baharu lantikan tetap sedang diteliti yang dijangka dapat memberi penjimatan kepada kerajaan daripada segi tanggungan pencen dalam tempoh jangka panjang.

"Lantikan kontrak (Interim)



KAEDAH baharu lantikan penjawat awam dapat memberi penjimatan kepada kerajaan. – GAMBAR HIASAN

adalah langkah sementara dengan tempoh tidak lebih daripada tiga tahun sebelum pegawai dilantik secara tetap tanpa perlu

melalui proses pengambilan semula," ujarnya.

Katanya, pegawai baharu yang dilantik menerusi kaedah baharu

akan menerima gaji, elaun dan kemudahan sama seperti yang dinikmati oleh pegawai lantikan tetap dan berpencen sedia ada.

KOSMO
Tarikh: 15 MAR 2024



SME Corp. giat membantu usahawan wanita dengan pelbagai program bermanfaat.

GAMBAR HIASAN

Program sasar bantu usahawan wanita

15/3/24
Kosmo

AURA
Citranita

Oleh SAIRUL ZAMRI MISRANI

SERAMAI 1,065 usahawan wanita mendapat sokongan kewangan berjumlah RM22.6 juta daripada SME Corporation Malaysia (SME Corp.) iaitu agensi di bawah Kementerian Pembangunan Usahawan dan Koperasi (Kuskop) pada tahun 2023. Ia merangkumi hampir 40 peratus daripada keseluruhan 2,708 perusahaan mikro, kecil dan sederhana (PMKS) yang menerima manfaat daripada program-program pembangunan dilaksanakan SME Corp. pada tahun lalu dengan nilai bantuan berjumlah RM92.6 juta. Pencapaian tersebut berjaya

melepasi sasaran awal ditetapkan SME Corp. bagi memastikan sekurang-kurangnya 30 peratus penerima manfaat adalah usahawan wanita.

Antara program yang dilaksanakan dengan jayanya adalah Program Pembangunan Perniagaan Usahawan Mikro (BizME).

Seramai 548 orang daripada keseluruhan 1,142 peserta (48 peratus) merupakan usahawan wanita dengan bantuan bernilai RM1.7 juta.

SME Corp. juga telah membantu usahawan wanita melalui Program Tunas Usahawan Belia Bumiputera (Tube) yang bertujuan menggalakkan golongan belia menceburi bidang keusahawanan.

Daripada 555 peserta yang telah diluluskan geran perniagaan berjumlah RM10 juta, separuh daripadanya iaitu 280 peserta adalah belia wanita melibatkan geran berjumlah RM4.3 juta.

Selain itu, SME Corp. melaksanakan program Pengukuhan Eksport PMKS yang bertujuan meningkatkan

keupayaan praeksport PMKS serta menambah bilangan PMKS yang berpotensi menembusi pasaran global.

Ketika ini, seramai 121 PMKS milikan wanita telah mendapat kelulusan berjumlah RM3.3 juta.

Program lain yang mencatat penyertaan memberangsangkan daripada usahawan wanita adalah program Peningkatan Kapasiti dan Keupayaan PKS (BAP), Peningkatan Enterprise Bumiputera (BEEP) dan Geran Perniagaan Mikro (GPM).

Semua program itu berjaya memanfaatkan lebih 100 usahawan wanita dengan kelulusan geran bernilai lebih RM12 juta bagi tujuan pembangunan kapasiti perniagaan.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif SME Corp., Rizal Nainy berkata, pada tahun ini, mereka memperuntukkan RM134.6 juta bagi melaksanakan pelbagai inisiatif dan program.

Ujarnya, SME Corp. menyasarkan untuk memberi manfaat kepada lebih 16,700 PMKS termasuk usahawan wanita, sejajar dengan aspirasi kerangka Ekonomi Madani yang lebih saksama, inklusif dan mampan.

"Pada tahun ini juga, SME Corp. akan kembali menganjurkan Anugerah Enterprise 50 (E50) iaitu program anugerah berprestij yang mengiktiraf pencapaian 50 PMKS terunggul di Malaysia.

"Bagi mengiktiraf pencapaian dan sumbangan usahawan wanita, satu anugerah khas telah diwujudkan iaitu Anugerah Usahawan Wanita Terbaik E50," katanya.

Bagi mempermudah PMKS memohon bantuan ditawarkan, mereka boleh memanfaatkan permohonan secara dalam talian melalui Sistem Bersepadu Penarafan & Insentif PMKS (MyBPI) yang baru diperkenalkan tahun ini.

Sebarang maklumat lanjut berkenaan program serta inisiatif yang disediakan boleh diakses dalam laman sesawang SME Corp. Malaysia.



TUBE merupakan salah satu program yang dianjurkan oleh SME Corp. untuk membantu usahawan wanita.

GAMBAR HIASAN

KOSMO

Tarikh: 15 MAR 2024

Jumlah miskin tegar diketahui selepas PADU dikemas kini

Ketika ini, jumlah miskin tegar yang dicatatkan adalah 0.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan rakyat Malaysia

Oleh SITI AISYAH MOHAMAD
KUALA LUMPUR

Angka sebenar mengenai kumpulan miskin tegar dijangka diperolehi selepas sistem Pangkalan Data Pusat (PADU) dikemas kini sepenuhnya.

Menteri Ekonomi, Rafizi Ramli berkata, ketika ini, jumlah miskin tegar yang dicatatkan menerusi laporan rasmi adalah 0.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan rakyat di negara ini.

Menurutnya, kadar kemiskinan tegar di negara ini mencatatkan penurunan kepada 0.2 peratus atau 18,445 isi rumah.

"Survei Pendapatan dan Perbelanjaan

Isi Rumah mencatatkan penurunan berbanding satu peratus pada 2020.

"Data eKasih di bawah Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan, Jabatan Perdana Menteri pula merekodkan pengurangan dengan jumlah isi rumah miskin tegar sebanyak 80,000 Ketua Isi Rumah sehingga akhir tahun lalu," katanya di Dewan Rakyat pada Khamis.

Beliau berkata demikian bagi menjawab pertanyaan **Datuk Seri Ismail Muttalib (PN-Marang)** berhubung jumlah kemiskinan tegar yang tepat kerana Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menyatakan bahawa ia akan dinoktahkan.

Menurut Rafizi, konsep menoktahkan kemiskinan tegar adalah langkah yang diperhalusi Kabinet untuk mengambil pendekatan ekonomi selepas mengetahui jumlah sebenar di negara ini.

"Miskin sifar bermaksud kadar kemiskinan tegar yang dilaporkan setiap ta-



RAFIZI

hun daripada pelaporan rasmi negara sebagai data rasmi kepada dunia.

"Setiap tahun sasaran mengeluarkan individu miskin tegar ini berdasarkan laporan rasmi berkenaan tetapi sifar miskin atau menoktahkan tidak bermaksud tiada langsung orang miskin tegar kerana kemiskinan itu relatif. Kalau begitu, tidak perlulah ada zakat," ujarnya.

Menjawab pertanyaan tambahan Ismail mengenai data eKasih, Rafizi berkata, ia perlu dibersihkan dari semasa ke semasa kerana didapati ada penerima bantuan itu tidak mahu dikeluarkan daripada senarai walaupun pendapatan mereka bertambah baik.

"Kerajaan akan terus mengemas kini data eKasih untuk digabungkan dalam sistem PADU bagi membolehkan kerajaan mendapatkan maklumat yang lebih baik dan tepat mengenai jumlah orang miskin tegar di negara ini," ujar beliau.

Amalkan budaya bawa bekas sendiri ke bazar Ramadan

PUTRAJAYA - Warga Wilayah Persekutuan diminta untuk mengamalkan budaya membawa bekas makanan sendiri ketika berkunjung ke bazar Ramadan.

Menteri di Jabatan Perdana Menteri (Wilayah Persekutuan), Dr Zaliha Mustafa berkata, langkah itu bagi mengurangkan penggunaan plastik membungkus makanan selari dengan usaha ke arah bandar rendah karbon.

"Kita semua sedia maklum tentang ancaman penggunaan plastik konvensional yang banyak memberikan kesan negatif terhadap kesihatan dan alam sekitar.

"Malah ia mengambil masa beratus tahun untuk terurai selain boleh menghasilkan bahan toksik merbahaya atau partikel halus yang menyerap masuk ke dalam tanah serta air sekali gus mengakibatkan pencemaran," katanya dalam

kenyataan selepas membuat tinjauan di Bazar Ramadan Presint 3 di sini pada Rabu.

Hadir sama, Ketua Pengarah Jabatan Wilayah Persekutuan (JWP) Datuk Noridah Abdul Rahim dan Presiden Perbadanan Putrajaya (PPj), Datuk Fadhlun Mak Ujud.

Beliau berkata, JWP telah melaksanakan pelbagai program bagi meningkatkan budaya membawa bekas makanan dari rumah.

"Semua program ini diadakan khusus untuk menyuntik kefahaman dan kesedaran dalam kalangan rakyat mengenai penggunaan produk biodegradasi.

"JWP akan menggalakkan penggunaan produk biodegradasi di ketiga-tiga Wilayah Persekutuan Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya dan Labuan," ujarnya.



Zaliha (tengah) menyerahkan beg kitar semula kepada pengunjung di Bazar Ramadan Presint 3, Putrajaya pada Rabu.

HARIAN METRO
Tarikh: ...1.5...MAR 2024

Jumlah miskin tegar diketahui selepas sistem Padu dikemaskini HMF/3

Kuala Lumpur: Maklumat yang lebih tepat berkaitan jumlah rakyat Malaysia yang dikategorikan sebagai miskin tegar akan diketahui selepas sistem Pangkalan Data Pusat (Padu) dikemaskini sepenuhnya.

Menteri Ekonomi Rafizi Ramli berkata, ketika ini, jumlah miskin tegar yang dicatatkan melalui laporan rasmi adalah 0.2 peratus daripada keseluruhan rakyat Malaysia.

Katanya, kadar kemiskinan tegar di negara ini mencatatkan penurunan kepada 0.2 peratus atau hanya 18,445 isi rumah, ketika ini.

"Survei Pendapatan Isi Rumah (HIES) mencatatkan penurunan, berbanding satu peratus pada 2020 manakala data e-Ka-

sih di bawah Unit Penyelarasan Pelaksanaan, Jabatan Perdana Menteri (ICU, JPM) mencatat pengurangan dengan jumlah isi rumah miskin tegar adalah 80,000 Ketua Isi Rumah (KIR), sehingga akhir tahun lalu," katanya di Dewan Rakyat, semalam.

Beliau menjawab soalan **Datuk Seri Ismail Muttalib (PN-Marang)** berkaitan jumlah kemiskinan tegar yang tepat kerana Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim menyatakan, ia akan dinoktahkan tahun lalu.

Rafizi menjelaskan, konsep menoktah kemiskinan tegar langkah diperhalusi Kabinet untuk mengambil pendekatan ekonomi selepas mengetahui jumlah sebenar orang miskin tegar di negara ini.

Oleh Siti Norhidayah
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Kuala Lumpur

Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad (Bank Muamalat) menawarkan pembiayaan peribadi patuh syariah, Cash-i Fasiliti Sokongan Akaun 2 (FSA2) bagi ahli Kumpulan Wang Simpanan Pekerja (KWSP) yang berkecualan bermula 16 Mac 2024.

Bank itu dalam satu kenyataan semalam berkata, fasiliti kewangan bertujuan membantu golongan terkesan keluar dari beban kewangan, akan dikenakan kadar keuntungan sebanyak 4.75 peratus pada kadar tetap tahunan.

Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, Khairul Kamarudin berkata, pembiayaan peribadi Cash-i FSA2 dibuka kepada semua pencarum KWSP yang berkecualan berumur antara 40 sehingga 53 tahun.

Katanya, pembiayaan peribadi Cash-i itu terbuka kepada pencarum dengan pendapatan kasar minimum sebanyak RM2,000 dan baki minimum sebanyak RM3,000 dalam Akaun 2 KWSP mereka.

"Pemohon yang layak boleh mendapat akses pembiayaan antara RM3,000 hingga RM50,000 bergantung kepada baki Akaun 2 KWSP mereka dengan tempoh bayaran maksimum 10 tahun," ka-

Tawar pembiayaan Cash-i FSA2

Bank Muamalat komited bantu golongan terkesan keluar dari beban kewangan

tanya dalam kenyataan sama.

Menurut Khairul, pihaknya cakna dengan keadaan ekonomi isi rumah yang tidak menentu dan bersedia membantu mengurangkan beban mereka.

"Dengan meningkatkan keupayaan dan akses kewangan melalui penyediaan perkhidmatan yang berkesan, Bank Muamalat bukan sahaja membantu masyarakat mendapatkan pembiayaan, tetapi turut merencanakan pasaran yang akan memenuhi permintaan isi rumah.

"Sehubungan itu, Bank Muamalat bersedia untuk meluaskan perkhidmatan dan produk kewangan bagi memenuhi keperluan golongan kurang mendapat perkhidmatan kewangan yang pelbagai dan khusus," katanya.

Bagi memastikan kepuasan perkhidmatan pelang-

gan dan mengurangkan tempoh proses kelulusan, permohonan untuk pembiayaan peribadi ini boleh dibuat melalui platform dalam talian mesra pengguna, Muamalat Application Platform (MAP).

Untuk maklumat lanjut mengenai, Cash-i FSA2 sila layari laman sesawang Bank Muamalat di www.muamalat.com.my atau kunjungi cawangan Bank Muamalat terdekat.

Pelanggan juga boleh menghubungi Pusat Khidmat Pelanggan Bank Muamalat di 03-2600 5500 untuk maklumat lanjut.

"Pemohon layak boleh mendapat akses pembiayaan antara RM3,000 hingga RM50,000"
Khairul

